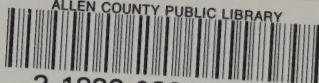


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THE STORY OF

THE STORY OF SNYDER COUNTY

*With a New Introduction prepared by
The Snyder County Historical Society*



GATEWAY PRESS, INC.
HARRISBURG, MD 17107



The Author
George Franklin Dunkelberger

THE STORY OF SNYDER COUNTY

From its earliest times to the present day, including geography of the county, an account of the Indians of the Susquehanna Valley, the pioneer settlements, the formation of the county as a political unit, the industries, the ways and means of communication and transportation, the schools and churches, the social customs and traditions, the participation of the county in the nation's wars, residents who attained prominence, old landmarks, and the economic and political life of the people.

Prepared by

George Franklin Dunkelberger, A. M., Ph. D.

With the assistance of other members of the
Snyder County Historical Society whose contributions
are duly acknowledged in the Preface.

CENTENNIAL EDITION

With a New Index Prepared by

The Snyder County Historical Society



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PREFACE TO THE 1997 REPRINT EDITION

The Snyder County Historical Society is pleased to offer this edition of *The Story of Snyder County* to commemorate the 100th Anniversary (1898-1998) of the society, and to mark the 50th Anniversary (1948-1998) of the original, and only previous, publication of the volume.

We are especially pleased that this edition will make the history contained in the volume available to the general public at an affordable price.

In the years since 1948, historians have pointed out a number of errors and omissions in the text, but it was the decision of the society to offer this edition as an authentic reprint of the original volume with no further editing of its text. Only this page and a more comprehensive index have been added to this edition.

We sincerely hope you will enjoy and benefit from the availability of this edition. For information on the purchase of additional copies, please contact:

THE SNYDER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

30 East Market Street

PO Box 276

Middleburg, Pennsylvania 17842

Most people live their entire life in a greatly restricted territorial area. The Pennsylvania Germans, particularly those of several generations ago, have been disposed to be a provincial people. The radius of their activities tended to be limited to a day's journey from their homes. To them, Ohio was the West, Kansas was so far away that only a favored few undertook the journey, and California and Oregon were entirely out of the question. As for Europe and Palestine, anybody that had traveled in those countries was quite generally regarded as an object of curiosity. Snyder County is a comparatively small geographical area, relatively thinly populated, and yet some of the oldest inhabitants have scarcely ever been all over the county, nor have they traveled much beyond its boundary lines. They have never seen its beautiful scenery nor have they visited its numerous historical places.

To be really interested in one's own native county, one has to know something about it. People deserve to know the geography of their native county; the plant and animal life; the products and industries; the natural resources; the scenery as indicated by streams, woodlands, ridges, mountains, and valleys; the history and traditions; the people and their accomplishments; and the contributions to social and industrial progress. McCaulay once said: "The man who doesn't know the history of his native land is like unto a blind man walking through a gallery of beautiful pictures and yet sees none of them." There may be a good excuse for some people to know little about local history, but it becomes inexcusable to continue to know little. Years ago not much attention was given to the study of local history in the schools. The idea evidently prevailed that little or no history was ever made in Snyder County. Most of the emphasis was laid upon national history, and state and local history were all but forgotten. The only places where history was supposed to have been made were Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Virginia, Maryland, and probably the Carolinas. Is it any wonder that the people's knowledge of local history is so limited?

People ought to have the opportunity to become informed in the folklore, the traditions, and the history of their native county. To meet this need, this story of Snyder County has been prepared. It is hoped it will inspire the people with a new love for "these rocks and rills, these

woods and templed hills", and kindle a flame of love for their native county. The preparation of this history was begun during the summer of 1939 as a project of the Snyder County Historical Society. Years of hard work, sacrificial service, and patient research, have been devoted to its preparation. A special interest in local history coupled with an impelling desire to meet an existing need, may be regarded as the reason for undertaking the task. The work of preparation has been arduous at times because so many other duties were constantly pressing, but for the most part, the work proved satisfying. Much credit rightfully belongs to a faithful few, years ago, who devoted so much of their time and energy in preserving local records and in creating interest in local history. No doubt much of their effort was little appreciated at the time. Among these faithful few may be mentioned George W. Wagenseller, Edwin Charles, Jay G. Weiser, William K. Miller, Franklin P. Manhart, and William M. Schnure. These men, as leaders in the early days of the Snyder County Historical Society, provided a residue of interest and a mass of information that have proved invaluable. In fact their writings and records have been the inspiration for this story. Full acknowledgement of their great help in the preparation of this work is hereby given.

Much of the information contained herein, was obtained from many people all over the county who were always willing to share whatever information they possessed. The officials in the Court House at Middleburg, Lewisburg, Sunbury, and Harrisburg, were gracious in rendering whatever assistance was requested. Many officials at the State Capital proved very helpful. The county newspapers were placed at the disposal of the research worker. It is simply impossible to name all the people to whom credit is due. There must always remain a sense of regret that this story wasn't prepared years ago when much more source materials would have been available.

The best appreciation is due members of the Snyder County Historical Society for their valuable help in the work of research, and in the preparation of papers that were read before the society. These papers are now in the possession of the County Historical Society and are available to all persons who desire to make further use of them. Without their assured assistance, the preparation

of this volume would not have been undertaken, and without their help, it could not have been completed. Among the persons who have been very helpful are Mrs. Frank S. Attinger, Harold L. Bolig, James B. Burns, Dr. Sanford N. Carpenter, Mrs. Clara L. Cunefare, D. Edwin Ditzler, Dr. George E. Fisher, Ellis E. Ferster, Dr. Russell W. Gilbert, Frank S. Gingrich, Mrs. Olive Aucker Glaze, Miles R. Herrold, Dewey S. Herrold, Chester S. Herrold, Rev. Harry D. Houtz, Jacob H. Kuster, Ernest E. Leitzel, Arthur A. Miller, Dr. George S. Moyer, Audrey North, A. Bahner Portzline, Dr. William A. Russ, Jr., Ira G. Sanders, William M. Schnure, Agnes Selin Schoch, Marion S. Schoch, George S. Schoch, Ray M. Smith, Charles F. Snyder, Edgar L. Swartzlander, James G. Thompson, Jr., Dr. B. Meade Wagenseller, Dr. Arthur H. Wilson, Clara Winey, Dr. John I. Woodruff, and Ira L. Yoder. The author expresses with pleasure his appreciation for the time and work given by Grace Herrold, Beatrice Herman, and Lenora Allison, in the typing of this manuscript. He also desires to acknowledge the assistance given by Edgar L. Swartzlander, Secretary of the County Historical Society, for many suggestions for improving the manuscript. He is also greatly indebted to him and to Ira G. Sanders for much help in the reading of the proof.

A certain portion of the history that territorially belongs to Union County has been included in the story of Snyder County. This was done because the territory now known as Snyder County was originally a portion of Union County. Even more significant is the fact that some of the border territory of the two counties was the scene of social, educational, political, religious, and economic activities, common to the people of the two counties, so that the boundary line appeared to them artificial and arbitrary, and for all practical purposes disregarded.

G. F. D.

Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.
September, 1948.

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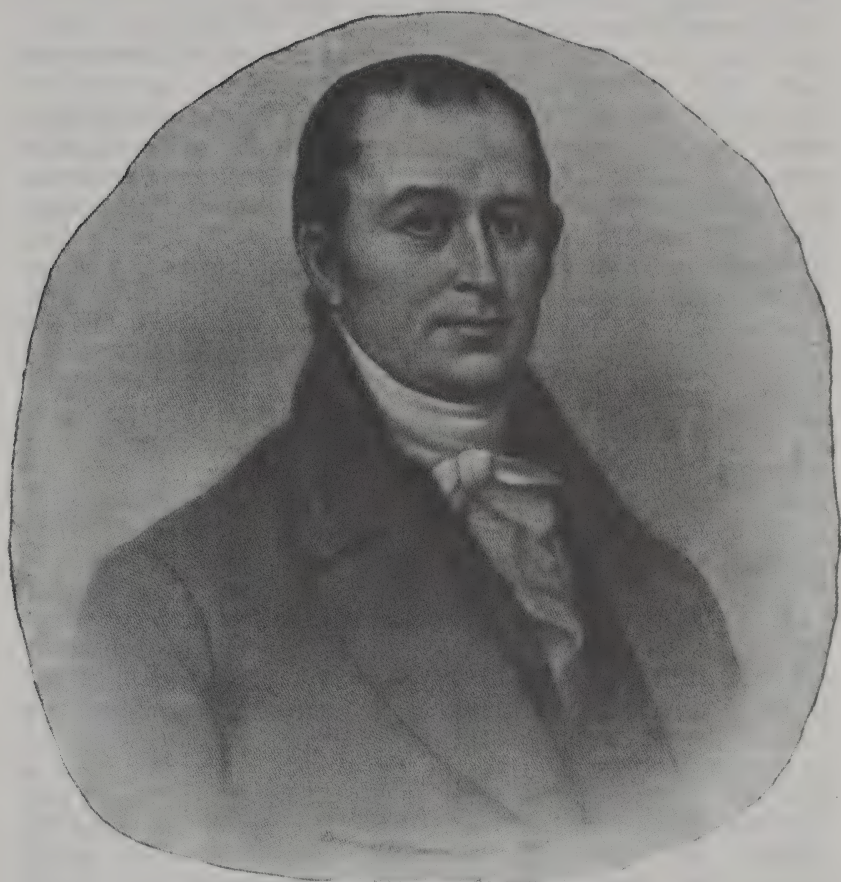
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Samuel Mudd
4

CHAPTER I

The Man After Whom the County Was Named

The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But, they while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

— HENRY W. LONGFELLOW

GOVERNOR SIMON SNYDER was undoubtedly the most distinguished citizen and resident that Snyder County ever had. Although not native born, he lived for about thirty-five years within the confines of the territory that bears his name. He was actively identified with the business interests and the political history of this portion of the Commonwealth for almost the same length of time. When the county was organized under the provisions of the Act of Assembly, March 2, 1855, it was named after the governor. Simon Snyder was the third governor of Pennsylvania (1808-1817) under the Constitution of 1790, having been preceded by Thomas Mifflin (1790-1799) and Thomas McKean (1799-1808). Unlike his predecessors, he didn't have an excellent literary training nor a brilliant legal record, not even an enviable military career to his credit. Simon Snyder's life was a good demonstration of Jeffersonian democracy. He had the distinction of being the last governor to serve three successive terms, the first governor elected on the Democratic ticket, the first governor elected from the rank and file of the Pennsylvania German population of the state, and hence was popularly known as the "Pennsylvania Dutch Governor". In fact, he was the first governor of the state to be an enthusiastic proponent of a free school system. The mere fact that he sprang from the laboring classes also endeared him greatly to the common people. His nationality, the virile character and great ability of the man, his political prominence in the state, his recognized leadership and statesmanship under trying circumstances, and his residence in Selinsgrove for so many years unite in giving him the conspicuous recognition that he so richly deserves in the history of his adopted county.

Parentage and Early Life

Simon Snyder was born of German parentage at Lancaster, November 5, 1759, the year of the ever-famous Wolf-Montcalm campaign of the French and Indian War (1754-1763). His parents were native Germans who had emigrated from the Palatinate to America and had settled near Manheim, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His

father, Anthony Snyder, (1725-1774), was a mechanic by trade and a member of the Lutheran faith. The mother, prior to her marriage to Snyder, was a widow by the name of Kremer whose husband, according to a family tradition, had died on the voyage to America. Another version of the family tradition is that she was the mother of four children, and after her husband's death in Europe, she came to America and married Anthony Snyder in 1750. Her maiden name was Maria Elizabeth Knippenberg, and her birthplace was near Oppenheim, Germany. Anthony Snyder had five children born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. These were Peter Snyder, Rosina Snyder (married to Jacob Lechner, the first postmaster of Selinsgrove), John Snyder, Simon Snyder, and Catherine Snyder (married to Anthony Selin, Sr., the founder of Selinsgrove). In 1774, Anthony Snyder died at Lancaster when Simon was only fifteen years old, the very time when a boy is in most need of a father. Two years after his father's death, Simon left Lancaster for York where he resided for about eight years, during which time he learned the trade of a tanner and currier. He also attended a "night school" taught by one John Jones, a Quaker, where he learned reading, writing, arithmetic, and a little of higher mathematics. During the day, he worked hard at his apprenticeship trade, attended school in the evening, and studied until the late hours of the night. In this way Simon Snyder acquired the rudiments of an education. In a very real sense of the term, he became a self-made man.

Certain sources of information appear to indicate that Simon Snyder served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, but the war records at Harrisburg and Washington do not support this belief. There are records of several persons by the same name who lived during that early period in the Lancaster area and who probably were relatives of the Governor. At least one of them was a soldier and probably an uncle or cousin of the Governor. It is highly improbable that the Governor had any active military experience at all in the American Revolution. His age would have been somewhat against it. The only evidence of any military activity of Simon Snyder was his connection with the Second Battalion of the Northumberland County militia of which Captain Frederick Evans became the commissioned lieutenant-colonel, June 1, 1792. This battalion was made up of Penn Township men with

Thomas Price, a Revolutionary War soldier, then living in Selinsgrove, serving as the major, and Simon Snyder serving as the captain of the Fifth Company of the battalion.

Becomes A Resident of Selinsgrove

Simon Snyder came to Selinsgrove in July, 1784, when he was but twenty-five years old. His brother, John Snyder (1755-1787) had preceded him to this locality and had become one of the early settlers of the Isle of Que. He became the owner of land in the community including the upper end of the island, and in addition, his land holdings extended to the mainland on the west side of the river. Simon Snyder soon started a store, and also became the owner of the Isle of Que Mills in partnership with his brother-in-law, Anthony Selin, Sr., who had migrated to this locality soon after the close of the Revolutionary War. In 1784 Anthony Selin and Simon Snyder were taxed for a store, forty acres of land, and a negro slave. This store was located near the home of his brother, John Snyder. There is some evidence to believe that this home and store may have been what is now known as the old portion of the present Schnure residence on East Mill Street since that portion is very old and of log construction. In addition it is known that the home was located to the north of Charlestown and Weiserburg, and was locally known as Snyder's.

John Snyder had large possessions, and these would have been much increased had it not been for his inordinate love for gambling on account of which he failed, not only to increase his possessions but actually lost much of what he already had accumulated. He was a great lover of horses, fond of races, and frequently staked or pledged much on the outcome of a contest. We are told that at one time he waged one of his town lots on the outcome of a horse race at Stumpstown (Middleburg). He rode the horse himself, was thrown from it in the race, and killed by the fall. This occurred in May, 1787. John Snyder was very impetuous and highly sensitive to any disparaging or insulting remarks. This is illustrated by an incident that occurred when he was a mere youth. At the age of nineteen, while he was still living in the Lancaster area, he overheard a remark made by a British officer with respect to the crude, unpolished appearance of the colonials that proved highly insulting to him. He not only

rebuked the officer for the remarks but in addition administered to him a sound flogging for good measure. The soldiers of his command resented this humiliating incident, and with fixed bayonets set out in hot pursuit of the offender, resolved to avenge the insult. John Snyder's fleetness of foot enabled him to escape his pursuers. Shortly after this incident, he settled in Selinsgrove. In course of time his younger brother, Simon Snyder, visited him. Evidently much influenced by his older brother, and finding the place to his liking, Simon Snyder sold his tannery in Lancaster, moved to Selinsgrove in 1784, and shortly afterwards opened a store and became the owner of a mill in a settlement already known as the Snyder's.

When John Snyder died in 1787 from the injuries sustained in falling from his horse, his son, John Snyder, Jr., fell heir to his land. On account of his profligate character and excessive gambling, he became insolvent and was sold out by the sheriff of all of his land. More will have to be said later about this matter since it became the cause of a great deal of litigation in the family.

Elected Justice of the Peace In Penn Township

A young man with the sterling character of Simon Snyder would quite naturally experience little difficulty in making for himself a place in his new residence. By his good judgment, impartiality, and passion for facts, he soon became a man of influence in the community, and his sage advice was constantly sought by his fellow citizens. He was conversant with the various kinds of legal forms and made it a business to draw up wills, deeds, contracts, and other legal documents. He was consistently interested in the welfare of the poor. He was modest, unassuming, and yet dignified in appearance. In this way he won the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens, and they unanimously selected him Justice of the Peace in Penn Township. He served in this capacity for twelve years under two commissions, under the constitutions of 1776 and 1790. His decisions as Justice were accepted with the highest respect. During these pioneer days, there evidently was much litigation but not a single decision was appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, and only one Writ of Certiorari was served on him during that time. Snyder was loved and respected for his sense of

justice, honesty, and impartiality. He constantly endeavored to get the disputants to adjust their difficulties out of court to save costs and further disputation. Disputes were common among the pioneer settlers but Justice Snyder usually succeeded in bringing about reconciliation. Only two cases of assault and battery during his term of office did he return to the Court of Quarter Sessions. Such an achievement represents an extraordinary degree of influence and public confidence.

Member Of The Constitutional Convention

His political career began in 1789 when he was elected a delegate from Northumberland County to the convention at Philadelphia which drafted the Constitution of 1790. Although largely politically inexperienced at the time, his votes in the convention and his participation in its affairs showed his superior ability and demonstrated that he was capable of filling a higher position of public trust than that of Justice of the Peace. It is reported that "his votes in the convention proved him to have been then, as he continued throughout life, the steady supporter of principles best calculated to maintain the rights and promote the happiness of the people of Pennsylvania".

Member Of The State Legislature

In October, 1797, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives from Northumberland County, and was annually re-elected up to 1808 when he was chosen Governor. The Constitution of 1790 provided that the representatives of the General Assembly shall be elected annually, and that the assembly shall meet annually in December. In 1802 he was unanimously chosen speaker of the House of Representatives, also in 1804, and again in 1807, a position which he held for three terms (1802-1808). He filled this position with general satisfaction. The House of Representatives at this time was composed of eighty-seven members. That he was a master of parliamentary practice is confirmed by the fact that during these years, not one of his decisions was reversed by the House. He frequently suggested amendments to bills, and these were usually accepted. He was progressive in his political activities and served as the spokesman of the liberal element of the people that gave him their enthusiastic support. This shows the high regard in which he was held by his constituency. Simon Snyder was never

recognized as a fluent speaker, and while he didn't address the legislature very often, whenever he did speak, he was listened to with undivided attention, and usually what he had to say had its influence upon the other members of the House. During his membership in the House, he served on a number of important committees. At this time the state capital was at Lancaster, and being before the days of railroads, he journeyed on horseback between Selinsgrove and Lancaster.

While he was Speaker of the House in 1802, the One Hundred Dollar Act, which he had originated and which he actively promoted, was passed by the legislature. This act embodied the principle of arbitration and provided for the trial of cases before a Justice of the Peace in which the amount involved in the dispute was not in excess of one hundred dollars. Governor McKean vetoed the bill. He was evidently opposed to extending the jurisdiction of the court of the Justice of the Peace on the grounds that he wasn't adequately learned in the law, that the cases tried were tried without benefit of jury, and that the act was partial in the sense that most of the litigation of the poorer classes came within the limit of a hundred dollars. This action of the governor caused much ill-feeling toward him by his own political party. The result was that the Anti-Federalists repudiated him as their leader and he in turn became affiliated with the Federalists.

Also during his term of office as Speaker of the House, certain charges were brought against the Judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Snyder was ever prompt and fearless in the performance of his duties. As Speaker he presented to the Senate the charge of impeachment. The Senate was convened as a high court, January 9, 1805. The final verdict rendered was thirteen "guilty" and eleven "not guilty". Since the vote failed of the necessary two thirds, the judges were acquitted.

Governor Of Pennsylvania

In 1805 when Speaker of the House of Representatives, Snyder was nominated for governor by the Democrats in opposition to McKean as the Federalist candidate for reelection. At this time there were thirty-nine counties in the state, and in the election for governor a total number of 82,477 votes were cast. Northumberland County polled

3202 votes for Simon Snyder and 1254 votes for Governor McKean. Governor McKean was reelected by 2406 majority. Although he was defeated, the results indicate the popularity of Snyder. In 1806 and 1807, Snyder was elected to the legislature again, and again unanimously elected the Speaker of the House. In 1808 he was placed in nomination the second time for the governorship by the Democratic Party and elected over James Ross of Pittsburgh, the Federalist candidate, by a plurality of 28,400. After completing his first term as governor, he was reelected in 1811 and in 1814 by very large majorities, thus serving Pennsylvania as its chief executive for three successive terms (1808-1817).

Election Returns for Governor Simon Snyder

1805 —	Thomas McKean—Independent Democrat	43,644
	Simon Snyder—Democrat	38,438
	Snyder (scattered)	395
	Total	82,477
1808 —	Simon Snyder—Democrat	67,975
	James Ross—Federalist	39,575
	John Spayd—Federalist	4,006
	(scattered)	8
	Total	111,564
1811 —	Simon Snyder—Democrat	52,319
	William Tilghman—Federalist	3,609
	(scattered)	1,675
	Total	57,603
1814 —	Simon Snyder—Democrat	51,099
	Isaac Wayne—Federalist	29,566
	George Lattimer—Independent	910
	(scattered)	18
	Total	81,593

In 1808 and in 1811 he was inaugurated at Lancaster, the capital of Pennsylvania, and in 1814 at Harrisburg. Simon Snyder was the third governor under the constitution of 1790 when the term was three years in length and constitutionally limited to a period of nine years out of twelve years. Snyder's re-election for three successive terms was a fitting tribute to his ability as a political leader and statesman.

Simon Snyder was the last of the governors of Pennsylvania to serve nine years. In this respect he stands out as the dividing line between what may be termed the long and the short term governors. Snyder proved in every way a very creditable governor, and particularly so, during the trying years of the strained relationships with the Federal Government, and in the discouraging experiences of our second war with England for complete independence.

Like Thomas Jefferson, Governor Snyder was never a fluent speaker. He could best express himself in writing. His predecessors in office, Governors Mifflin and McKean, always appeared in person before the General Assembly to deliver their messages but Snyder broke precedent by substituting the written message in its place.

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATIONS

The Olmstead Case

During the administrations of Governors McKean and Snyder (1799-1817), a controversy developed between the State and the National Governments with respect to the payment of certain war claims incurred during the American Revolution. The affair has become generally known as the Olmstead Case. Sometimes it is referred to as "The Case of the Sloop Active" or as the "Fort Rittenhouse Affair". The records of the case are greatly involved and some of the facts are not altogether clear. The whole unfortunate incident specifically appeared to have been a judicial quarrel between seamen and certain private individuals, when in fact it was a contest between the State and Federal authorities of far-reaching significance. It marked a tremendously important step in the battle for national authority. It appears that a number of American seamen were captured on the high seas in the vicinity of Cape Charles, in 1778, by a British ship and taken to Jamaica. There, four of them, Captain Gideon Olmstead and three other seamen from Connecticut, were forcibly transferred to another British ship called the "Active". While this ship was on its way to New York with arms and supplies for the British Army, somewhere along the Atlantic Coast, the four captured seamen managed to overcome the British crew and to get full control of the ship. They then started with their prize for Little Egg Harbor on the New Jersey Coast, but on the way were intercepted

by two American vessels, the "Convention", fitted out by the State of Pennsylvania, and the privateer "Girard", commanded by Captain James Josiah. The British ship was brought to the Philadelphia port as a prize. Captain Thomas Houston, in command of the "Convention", claimed the ship and its cargo in behalf of the officers, crew, and the State of Pennsylvania. Captain Olmstead and his three assistants protested the claim on the grounds that they had actually captured the British vessel, and therefore were entitled to the award.

The case was tried by jury in the Pennsylvania Courts of Admiralty, and the decision was that the four seamen were to receive one-fourth of the prize money, the officers and crew of the "Convention" one-fourth, the officers, crew, and the owners of the "Girard" one-fourth, and the State of Pennsylvania the remaining one-fourth. This decision was considered unjust by the four seamen and they with the assistance of Benedict Arnold, a fellow-citizen of Connecticut and the military commander of Philadelphia, appealed their case to the National Government. The Committee on Appeals of the Continental Congress practically reversed the decision of the Pennsylvania Court of Admiralty by awarding the entire prize to the four seamen, and by instructing the marshal of the State Court to sell the ship and its cargo, and after deducting all expenses, pay the entire balance to Captain Olmstead and his men. The cargo and the ship were sold by the marshal according to instructions but the money was paid over to Judge George Ross of the Court of Admiralty instead of to the seamen in line with the instructions given to him by the State Court. Judge Ross, in turn, by order of the General Assembly, paid the money over to David Rittenhouse, the State Treasurer. Instead of depositing the money in the State Treasury, he invested the money in certificates of credit to be turned over to the proper parties upon final settlement of the case. The Pennsylvania Court claimed that the Federal Government was interfering with the rights of the State, and in consequence, the State Treasurer refused to pay the award. His action was upheld by the State Court. The State declared it acted in line with the Act of Congress of 1775 when it established its Court of Admiralty, and therefore the decision of this court should be respected by Congress. When Judge Ross died in 1790, Captain Olmstead, becoming impatient with

what he rightfully conceived an inexcusable delay in making a settlement, brought suit against his executors for the recovery of the money. Since Judge Ross had paid the money over to Rittenhouse, the Ross executors sued Rittenhouse. The cases were brought to the attention of the State Supreme Court in 1792 but the Court declined to sustain the suits on the ground that a Court of Common Pleas had no jurisdiction over cases of admiralty. This refusal proved a clear-cut conflict of authority as to whether the State or the National Government should have the prerogative. What further complicated the problem was the fact that the chief executives of both the State and the Nation felt duty bound by their oath of office to execute the laws and court decisions coming within their respective jurisdictions.

The case involved considerable feeling and was long delayed in its final settlement. Rittenhouse resigned as Secretary of the Treasury in 1789 but the matter was still an open issue at the time of his death in 1796. The transfer of the National Government from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution of the United States didn't seem to help matters. In the meantime, Olmstead made a new appeal, based on the fact that the United States District Courts had the power to carry out the decisions of the Court of Appeals of the Continental Congress. In the meantime, the Supreme Court of the United States had declared the decision of the Continental Congress valid, and Captain Olmstead was informed that he would receive the prize money. To meet the situation, upon Governor McKean's recommendation, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed an act, April 2, 1803, contending that the Pennsylvania Court of Admiralty had final jurisdiction, and that its powers had been usurped by the Court of Appeals of the Continental Congress. The act ordered the executrixes of David Rittenhouse (the daughters of Rittenhouse) to pay the requisite amount of money into the State Treasury and directed the Governor to protect the women and their property against any action taken by the Federal Court. The Rittenhouse executrixes failed to comply, probably because the issue continued a matter of controversy and they wished to wait until the final adjustment of the dispute. Finally, in 1808, Olmstead made a final appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States to issue a writ

to compel them to obey the instructions. Chief Justice John Marshal in granting it made the following comment on the issue:

If the legislatures of the several states may at will annul the judgments of the Courts of the United States and destroy the rights acquired under these judgments, the constitution itself becomes a solemn mockery and the nation is deprived of the means of enforcing its laws by the instrumentality of its own friends. The State of Pennsylvania can possess no constitutional right to resist the legal process which may be directed in this case.

Attempts then were undertaken by the United States marshal to serve the writ but he found the house (north-west corner of Seventh and Arch, subsequently known as Fort Rittenhouse) surrounded by State Militia under the command of General Bright, and he was prevented from entering by military force. The militia had been ordered there by Governor Simon Snyder with the sanction of the State Legislature. The marshal then called for 2000 men to assist him in serving the warrant.

The Pennsylvania authorities interpreted this action as unjustifiable interference and began to take further steps to offer armed resistance to such encroachments upon State Rights by the Federal Government. For a while it looked as though there might be an invasion by Federal troops to compel the State to conform to the decrees of the National Government. In the meantime, the marshal had gained entrance to the house and had taken into custody the executrixes. Habeas Corpus proceedings were initiated. Governor Snyder then acted in line with the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly of 1809 which upheld the rights of the State. He declared himself duty bound to protect the life and property of the executrixes. The State also claimed jurisdiction over cases of admiralty, but nevertheless appropriated \$18,000 to be used as Governor Snyder "might deem advisable and proper" under the circumstances. Governor Snyder paid the money to the right parties, saved the executrixes the humiliation of imprisonment, and the State from a serious collision with the National Government. After thirty-one years of litigation and inexcusable delays, Captain Olmstead and his three associates received their money, which, it seems, rightfully belonged to them from the very beginning.

Even this settlement with the fishermen did not end the whole unfortunate affair. The Federal Government proceeded to arrest General Bright and his men for obstructing the enforcement of Federal Orders. In the trial, it was brought out that they had acted willfully and knowingly in resisting the marshal but had done so under the authority of their State. General Bright was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and a fine of \$200, and his men to one month imprisonment and a fine of fifty dollars each. The President of the United States immediately remitted the sentence on the ground that "they had acted from a mistaken sense of duty".

Considerable space has been given to this case here because of its significance in the adjustment of a controversy between the State and Federal Government. The Hon. Hampton L. Carson (1852-1929), who served as the Attorney General in Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker's administration (1903-1907), made the following important comment on this case:

The old fisherman had triumphed. His pertinacity in maintaining his legal rights had equalled his persistent valor upon the sea in securing his prize against superior numbers. Heaven had bountifully lengthened out his days until the victory was won, and then called him away at the age of four score and ten. But better and more lasting than the fruits of heroism was the vindication of national power. The priceless principle had been established that the Constitution and laws of the United States shall be recognized as the supreme law of the land and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The School Act of 1809

During the first term as governor in the year 1809, an act was passed by the legislature to provide for the education of the poor. This act made it the duty of township assessors to ascertain the names of all children whose parents were too poor to send them to school, and to report their findings to the county commissioners so that provision could be made for the education of all such children in the different subscription schools that were in operation during the winter. The act was designated the "Pauper Act" and proved unsatisfactory because many parents were unwilling to pauperize themselves in order to secure an education for their children. The result was that thousands of children were permitted

to grow up without the advantages of school education. Although unsatisfactory because it recognized class discrimination between the rich and the poor the act proved to be the forerunner of the present public school system which was established twenty-five years later under the administration of Governor George Wolf (1829-1835).

The Removal of the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northumberland County

The great courage of Governor Snyder's convictions was manifested in his removal of the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northumberland County in 1811. In those early days, the judges of the courts were appointed by the governor and not elected by the people as they are at the present day. In 1806 Governor Thomas McKean appointed Thomas Cooper, the President Judge of the Northumberland County Court of Common Pleas, as the successor to Judge Jacob Rush. Cooper was an Englishman, educated at Oxford University, proficient in chemistry, medicine, and law. For political reasons, he had been compelled to flee from England, and then came to America and took up his residence there. While in the United States, he attacked President Adams, and was arrested. He was tried for libel under the Alien and Sedition Laws of 1800, sentenced to six months imprisonment, and fined \$400. He had various idiosyncrasies and in consequence was much disliked by the people generally. After having served as judge in Sunbury for five years, he was removed from office by Governor Snyder because of his uncontrollable temper and for conduct unbecoming a judge of the courts. The governor appointed Judge Seth Chapman to fill the vacancy.

The War of 1812

James Madison was inaugurated President of the United States in 1809 when Snyder had served only one year as governor. The War of 1812 began when Snyder had just been elected to his second term. The history of this second war for independence need not be told here. The causes of the war, the principal events of the war, the treaty of peace, December 24, 1814, and the final close of the struggle culminating in the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, are facts too well known to students of American History to be recapitulated here. For our immediate purpose, we are interested only in

Governor Snyder's relationship to the war. While there was much division of opinion about the advisability or the feasibility of going to war with England just at that time, it must be said that the Governor believed in the justice of the war and employed every effort toward its vigorous prosecution. Already in his first inaugural address to the legislature in 1809, he showed his deep feeling in the matter:

In a national crisis like the present where all that is dear and precious to the United States is threatened by the violence and the aggressions of foreign powers, it is peculiarly and eminently the duty of all the constituted authorities to act in support of the just and honorable measures adopted by the Federal Government, as if animated by one heart, one spirit, and one determination. The happy influence of such an accordance of opinion and action is not bounded by our country but beneficially extends itself wherever American politics can interest or American interests be affected.

The War of 1812 was undoubtedly the most important event of his administrations. Because of his fine cooperative spirit in the prosecution of the war, he has frequently been referred to as the "War Governor". He ever faithfully administered state affairs in the interests of the Federal Government, and when the Federal Government called upon the State of Pennsylvania for troops for actual service, Governor Snyder promptly responded with the assigned quotas. The Governor's proclamation calling for troops to prosecute the war deserves to be quoted again and again. To enlist in this war was to enlist for purely patriotic reasons. There was no incentive for citizens to enlist for mercenary reasons, for the pay of the soldier at the time was only eight dollars per month. Governor Snyder appealed to the citizenry of the State by both precept and family example to enlist in the military service. It is well to remind the citizens of the State that during the entire war, Pennsylvania was never invaded by the British forces, and yet at one time she had more men in the Federal Army than any other State in the Union. Pennsylvania also furnished more money to prosecute the war than did any other state. Those two facts should make all Pennsylvanians proud of Governor Snyder's leadership and of the militia and volunteers that responded so nobly to their country's call. Governor Snyder probably did all a patriotic governor could do under the circumstances to bring about a successful termination of the war.

The Bank Bill

Unfortunately for the financial status of the nation, the charter of the United States Bank terminated in 1811, and for some reasons or other, the charter wasn't renewed. State Banks had always been disposed to be jealous of the Federal Bank, and this situation now afforded an excellent opportunity for them to promote their own selfish interests by means of legislation favorable to the chartering of new banks. When Snyder was a candidate for the governorship for the third term, the legislature in the session of 1813-1814, passed a bill by a large majority chartering forty banks. It was really an act to establish a general banking system for the State. The candidate for governor was then nominated by the legislature and not by a State Convention as was done later. This plan of making a gubernatorial nomination greatly aggravated the political situation. While the legislature was in session for the purpose of nominating the gubernatorial candidate, this bill to charter forty banks was then in the Governor's hands. During a caucus held for the purpose, it was proposed not to attempt to make any nominations so long as the Bank Bill was awaiting the Governor's signature. An adjournment of the legislature took place to find out what Governor Snyder would do with the bill. Within three days, he fearlessly and independently returned the bill with his objections in a veto message, March 19, 1813. He enumerated nine reasons why the bill should not become a law. This veto message showed that his financial views were sound. It also indicated the Governor's personal moral integrity and his sound judgment in placing the welfare of his state above mere personal and political expediency. This act also gave him great popularity, and he was nominated and re-elected in 1814 by a ten thousand majority. It is interesting to record here that a year later, March 19, 1814, he vetoed the measure a second time, but two days later, the legislature passed it over his veto and granted the charter. This act incorporated forty-one banks with a capital outlay approximating \$17,000,000. The subsequent unfortunate experiences with this new banking system in the issue of too much paper money, the raising of prices, and the failure of many banks, demonstrated the wisdom of Governor Snyder's vetoes.

Harrisburg Becomes the Capital of the State

The question of the location of the capital of Pennsylvania has special interest because Harrisburg became the capital during Governor Snyder's administration, and because the neighboring town of Northumberland was one of the chief contenders for the honor at the time. Technically the first capital of the Province was located on Tinicum Island in the Delaware River in 1643. Upon the arrival of Penn in 1682, the first General Assembly was held at Chester. The following year, Philadelphia became the seat of government, and continued so until 1799 when Lancaster became the capital in November of that same year. Lancaster was the capital from 1799 until 1812, and Harrisburg has been the capital from 1812 to the present time.

For a long time there had been considerable agitation to have the capital of the state more centrally located. As early as 1787 the General Assembly considered the advisability of erecting a State House on a plot of land of four and one-half acres, deeded to the Commonwealth by John Harris, the founder of Harrisburg. In 1795 the House of Representatives voted in favor of locating the capital at Harrisburg but the Senate would not agree. In 1798 the House voted to move the seat of the state government to Wrightsville but again the Senate disagreed. Then in what appears to have been a compromise agreement, both houses favored the removal of the capital to Lancaster where it remained until 1812. Lancaster, for some reason or other, appeared to be an unpopular choice practically from the very beginning. There was constant agitation to move the capital elsewhere. During Snyder's first administration the contest for re-location was raging.

The citizens of Lancaster evidently were eager to have the capital remain there. They offered eight acres of land and \$40,000 as an inducement to have that city continue as the capital. In the meantime, strong efforts were made to locate the state capital at Northumberland, and a Committee of the Senate favored this place over all other competitors. The advantages enumerated in behalf of Northumberland were good waterways, good wagon roads, and its central location in the midst of a fine agricultural community. Reading was also proposed and land offered for the location of the necessary build-

ings. The towns of Beaver, Columbia, Carlisle, Aaronsburg, and Middletown were mentioned as possibilities. Harrisburg was finally chosen as the seat of the state government. This city will probably remain the capital since the present state constitution specifically states that "no law changing the location of the capital of the state shall be valid until the same shall have been submitted to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth at a general election and ratified and approved by them".

The Act of Assembly providing the necessary regulations for the legal transfer was passed February 21, 1810. John Harris offered four and one-half acres of land, and William Maclay ten acres, for the site of the capital building. In January, 1811, Governor Snyder, by a special proclamation, officially accepted the offer of four and one-half acres by John Harris and the offer of ten acres by William Maclay at \$100 per acre. Governor Snyder appointed commissioners to determine the plans for the building and to supervise its construction. The cornerstone of the new capital building was laid with imposing ceremonies, May 31, 1819, by Governor William Findlay, and the building was completed in 1821. The General Assembly met in the new capitol for the first time, January 2, 1822. In the meantime, the sessions were held in the old Dauphin County Courthouse. This capitol building was continued in use until the administration of Governor Daniel H. Hastings, when it was destroyed by fire, February 2, 1897. The present imposing capitol building, on the site of the former capitol building, was erected during the administrations of Governors Hastings, Stone, and Pennypacker (1895-1907) and dedicated, October 4, 1906, in Pennypacker's administration (1903-1907). President Theodore Roosevelt gave the dedicatory address.

The Formation of New Counties

Union County was formed out of Northumberland County by an Act of the Assembly passed March 22, 1813. Prior to the formation of this county, Governor Snyder's residence was in Selinsgrove, Northumberland County, later it became Selinsgrove, Union County. It is rather interesting to note the increase in the number of counties during Snyder's three administrations. That period of years was literally an era of the formation of new counties. When Simon Snyder was born in 1759, there were only

eight counties in Pennsylvania, viz., Chester, Philadelphia, Bucks, Northampton, Berks, Lancaster, York, and Cumberland. When his parents emigrated to Pennsylvania about the middle of the eighteenth century, all of Pennsylvania was embraced in five counties, viz., Chester, Philadelphia, Bucks, York, and Lancaster. When he was elected to the legislature in 1797, the State was divided into twenty-five counties. During the period he served in the legislature, ten new counties were formed. In 1800, ten more new counties were formed; in 1804, seven more were added. During the nine years he was Governor, eight new counties were formed. During the twelve years after his retirement from the Governorship, no new counties were formed, the State being then composed of fifty counties. As a member of the legislature or as Governor, he assisted in forming and arranging twenty-five new counties.

Personal Views On Public Questions Slavery

Negro slavery proved a highly controversial issue practically from the very beginning of its introduction into this country. Negro slavery existed in Pennsylvania among the Dutch and Swedes even before the days of William Penn. Penn himself had slaves on his estate at Pennsburg, not that he favored slavery but that he followed the practices of his day. The question of negro slavery was much discussed during Colonial Days. Slavery was never popular in Pennsylvania, and consequently it never flourished there. In 1780 an Act was passed abolishing slavery for life in Pennsylvania. The Act provided that all children of slave mothers born after that date should be forever free when they attained the age of twenty-eight years. By the operation of this law, the number of slaves in Pennsylvania decreased rapidly so that by 1820, there were only 211 slaves in the State as shown by the census for that year.

As might be expected Governor Snyder was opposed to the institution of slavery. He was the first Pennsylvania Governor to enter an official protest against it. In his message to the General Assembly, December 5, 1811, he spoke thus of slavery:

Elevated as is her character for humanity, there is yet permitted to remain one other stain on the otherwise fair and benign features of her polity. The galling yoke of slav-

ery is still felt by some of our fellow creatures in different parts of the Commonwealth, and its pressure is made the more severe by witnessing the happiness and freedom of surrounding multitudes. A recent act of cruelty which came under my notice and which awakened feelings of a painful and distressing nature, will, I trust, excuse the introduction to your notice of a subject so interesting to the whole human family and embracing facts and practices palpably inconsistent with the terms and the spirit of that fundamental and immutable law of reason—"that all men are born free and equal".

Education

The constitution of 1790 declared that the "legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provide by law for the establishment of schools throughout the state, in such manner that the poor may be taught gratis". All the governors under this constitution expressed interest in this provision of the constitution in their messages to the General Assembly. They had sworn to obey the constitution, and they wanted this injunction to establish schools throughout the state carried out by the legislature. Governor Thomas Mifflin (1790-1799) in his message of December 6, 1794, declared:

Allow me to impress upon your consideration, the constitutional injunction, "to provide by law, as soon as conveniently may be, for the establishment of schools throughout the state, in such manner that the poor may be taught gratis". To multiply, regulate, and to strengthen the sources of education is the duty of every wise and virtuous government.

Governor Thomas McKean (1799-1808) referred to schools, November 21, 1800, in the following words:

Considering the diffusion of useful knowledge among the people to be the best auxiliary to the administration of a free government, allow me to remind you of a constitutional injunction that the legislature, as soon as conveniently may be, provide by law for the establishment of schools throughout the state, in such manner, that the poor may be taught gratis.

When we come to Governor Snyder's administration (1808-1817), a much more aggressive policy was pursued. He showed so much more zeal for schools that in a very real sense of the term he can be called the real promoter of the movement for free schools in Pennsylvania. The constitutional provision for the establishment of schools throughout the state was ever the burden of his heart,

and he never hesitated for a moment to remind the legislature of its obligation along this line. He consistently urged the legislature to carry out this provision. His struggles as a young man to get an education, the deprivations he must have suffered because of the lack of it, and the imperative need of universal education in a democracy, must have weighed heavily upon his mind to provide for others what he didn't have for himself. Probably both Mifflin and McKean were less interested than Snyder in promoting schools because they had been much more favorably situated in the getting of an education, and enjoyed its blessings without due regard for others deprived of it.

A public man reveals his inner thoughts best in his writings and public utterances. Therefore, no attempt is made here to interpret Governor Snyder's point of view. Direct quotations from his papers and messages are made for this purpose. These quotations are taken from his first and third messages to the General Assembly. In fact in each of his nine annual messages from 1808 to 1817, he stressed the importance of education and the duty of the legislature to carry out the constitutional provisions with respect to the establishment of schools.

Moral virtue consists in a knowledge of duty, and a conformity of will and action to that knowledge. Political virtue, in a republic, bottomed on moral rectitude, consists in a love of the republic and esteem for its institutions. Hence the immense importance of a system of education. Can a man be morally or politically virtuous who is ignorant of the value of the first, and understands not the principle of, nor knows the duties which the latter enjoins?

To establish, therefore, a system of education, calculated to diffuse general instruction is at once of primary importance, in both a moral and political point of view; affording the strongest bulwarks against the subversion of good morals, and sound political principles. The importance of education is still more enhanced, by the consideration that, in a republican or representative government, every citizen may be called upon to assist in the enactment, or execution, of the laws of his country; and will hence necessarily engage your attention.

To the subject of education I would again invite your serious attention. Of its beneficial effects upon morals and political institutions, I need not enlarge. To ignorance, our prisons, our penitentiaries, and our poor houses, are principally indebted for their inhabitants. The value of education is incalculably enhanced in a government of the people, such as ours, where every citizen may be called in his turn, to legislate, or to execute. A general diffusion of knowledge, can alone ensure and perpetuate our republi-

can institutions. Without a competent portion of information, rational liberty cannot be realized. It ceases, indeed, to be a blessing. It degenerates into licentiousness. Your predecessors have made some progress in the business, but not to the extent of the constitutional injunction.

Capital Punishment

The question of capital punishment has been a moot question for many generations. It is very significant that Governor Snyder found it important enough to consider the issue in his Annual Message to the Assembly in 1809.

The criminal code of Pennsylvania justly celebrated for its mildness and efficiency; yet authorizes the punishment of death. The happy effects which are acknowledged to have resulted, from the abolition of public and shameful punishments, would warrant an experiment to ascertain how far the abolition of the punishment of death would be attended with like beneficial consequences to society.

The habits, manners, and the religious opinions, of a very respectable number of citizens, make them recoil from being in any wise instrumental in bringing to the bar of justice, testifying against, or convicting a fellow-being; when they know that the consequence of that conviction is to be the death of the offender. These considerations multiply very much the chances of escaping after the perpetration of the most cold-blooded, malicious, and unprovoked murder; and act, therefore, rather as incentives to provoke, than as curbs to restrain, the most ferocious passions of the human heart.

Whether the substitution of imprisonment during life, or any other punishment would be productive of less evil to society, than the punishment of death, is a question meriting the attention of humane and enlightened legislators, though, on the one hand, both opinion and feeling prompt a hope for an amelioration of our penal code, so far as respects the punishment of death; for, of all duties which becomes the executive to perform, I can, from experience say, that of announcing to a fellow-being, the day, the hour, on which he shall cease to exist, is the most painful and distressing. Yet, on the other hand, I conceive it my duty to suggest the necessity of revising the laws for the suppression of vice and immorality, and strengthening the arm of the magistrate.

Moral And Religious Convictions

Simon Snyder was a deeply religious man. He had strong convictions on moral issues, and was much concerned about the moral status of the people. His messages to the General Assembly invariably carried a strong moral and religious tone. When one reads his proclamation designating a Day of Thanksgiving, he gets the impression that much more is meant than just a formal

routine declaration of the chief Executive. Governor Snyder did not hesitate to appoint a day of fasting and prayer during the darkest period of the war.

Governor Snyder deplored the prevalence of dissipation, idleness, and vice because of their destructive nature on the morals of the people. He refused to sanction lotteries as a means of raising money for community needs. He considered "horse-racing and its attendant gambling as growing evils that can be prevented only by the forfeiture of the animal designated for that cruel sport". He urged the enactment of legislation as ways and means of curbing drunkenness among the people. He refused to stoop to the wishes of the low-bred politician. Though repeated attempts were made by corrupt and unscrupulous persons to induce him to wander from the pathway of political justice, he consistently refused to play ball with them in their ulterior proposals for partisan and bad legislation, and in their recommendations of low-grade men for political appointments.

Linn in his "Annals of Buffalo Valley (1755-1855)" has the following to say about Governor Simon Snyder as a religious man:

The crowning glory of Governor Snyder's career was his christianity. In religious culture he was a Moravian, and in public station he never forgot his vows or neglected his religious duties. His heart went out at all times in deeds of kindness to the poor and the unfortunate. He was long mourned with sincere grief by them, and the few old people still surviving, tell how tenderly it was manifested when he was buried out of their sight.

As a public servant for many years, he couldn't help but be separated much of the time from his home and family, nevertheless, he took time out of his busy life to keep in touch with the several members. This correspondence reveals a father's affection for his children and a deep sense of responsibility for their welfare. Two letters written to his children, January, 1813, reproduced from Linn's "Annals", show the trend of his thinking and his solicitude for their religious welfare.

I hope the practice I recommended, of reading by the boys in the evening, has been adopted, and the reading of a chapter in the New Testament or one of Blair's sermons on a Sunday, when there is no worship in our church. When there is, and the weather is tolerable, I trust you and all the boys attend. Your example may influence them. I would advise you to set apart, say two hours each day, for reading, and endeavor to store your mind with all that

is worth recollecting. Write to me when you have the opportunity, or rather write when anything occurs to your mind worth communicating, and then you will be ready, and not hurried, when an opportunity offers. This is my method, or I never could get through half my business.

I feel much distressed by your relation of John's state of health. I hope that no pains or expense will be spared to restore him. God grant that he may recover, and become sensible of the necessity to alter his mind, and prove thankful and grateful to God for his mercies. His God, from whose hand the thread of his life is suspended, will hear him, if, with a contrite heart he calls for mercy and forgiveness. I write under strong emotions of pain. God have him and you all in his Holy keeping, is the prayer of your father.

Internal Improvements

As the Governor of Pennsylvania, he was constantly recommending to the legislature ways and means to promote the material prosperity of the State. He encouraged the promotion of agriculture, internal improvements such as the building of roads and canals, home industries, river navigation, and the efficiency of the state militia. There is scarcely any social, economic, political, or moral question that didn't claim his attention in his annual messages to the General Assembly.

The Attempted Kidnapping Of The Governor's Son

One of the most dastardly things that outlaws can do in order to have their own way is to threaten law enforcement officials and the members of their families with bodily harm, or even with death. The proposed scheme of kidnapping the governor's son was an infamous attempt to intimidate the governor to grant a pardon to a man convicted of murder. When Governor Snyder lived at Selinsgrove, a certain disreputable woman by the name of Mrs. Ann Baker Carson Smith, whose husband was under sentence of death for the murder of her former husband, started from Philadelphia for Selinsgrove, with two or three hired criminal associates who had recently been liberated from the penitentiary. They started with the intent and purpose of abducting the governor's youngest son, Antes, then a lad in school, and holding him as a hostage until her husband was pardoned. The plot was discovered by friends of the governor, and they succeeded in conveying the information to him before it could be carried out. This was in a day when there was no Board of Pardons, and the governor alone had the exclusive power of granting pardons.

Mrs. Ann Baker Carson Smith was undoubtedly one of the most notorious women that ever figured in Pennsylvania history. She was first married to a Scotch sea-captain by the name of John Carson. During his last voyage to China, covering a period of several years, she believed or pretended to believe him dead, and then married a man by the name of Richard Smith, a former lieutenant in the army. Shortly after this second marriage, her former husband returned, took possession of the house and wife, and ordered the second husband to leave. Richard Smith was decidedly unwilling to do this. The friends of Mrs. Smith tried to induce her to renounce this second marriage but failed in their attempts. The final outcome was that Smith shot Carson for which offense, he was tried for murder, convicted, and hanged.

Pending the death sentence, Mrs. Smith first tried to induce Col. John Binns, a prominent newspaper man and intimate friend of Governor Snyder, to obtain a pardon from the governor for the condemned man. Failing in this, she wrote a letter to the Governor's wife, praying her to intercede in behalf of her husband and to induce the governor to grant him a pardon. Supplementary to this, she also filed with the governor a petition with many signatures. The total effort failed completely and then she resorted to the scheme of kidnapping the son. The Governor was in Selinsgrove, where he usually spent his summer months, when the letters from Philadelphia revealed to him Mrs. Smith's plans. The Governor immediately set out for Harrisburg, leaving his three sons, Henry, George, and Frederick, to guard the home. On his arrival at Harrisburg, steps were taken to intercept the kidnappers. Within a few days, Mrs. Smith and her associates arrived. Their journey from Philadelphia must have been a tedious one since this occurred before the days of railroads and canals. For some reason, they were permitted to continue to Hunter's Fall, about ten miles above Harrisburg, where they stopped over night at the Armstrong tavern. One of the three accomplices opened a trunk in the bar-room and displayed three pistols to the group. The tavern-keeper remarked that he was well-armed, to which the reply was made, "If I had one of these pistols in my hand and Governor Snyder in the other, the question of Smith's pardon would soon be settled". The party made numerous inquiries con-

cerning the road to Selinsgrove, the age of the Governor's son, and the location of the house. Soon after the party had retired, a constable with deputies arrived from Harrisburg and arrested them. Upon examination of the trunk, all kinds of tools usually employed in committing acts of burglary were found.

The men assistants of Mrs. Smith were soon returned to the penitentiary. Mrs. Smith also was convicted and made to serve a sentence in prison. Because she made an attempt to escape, she was compelled to serve her full time, otherwise she probably would have been paroled. After her release from prison, she was convicted of passing counterfeit bank-notes and sentenced to the penitentiary where she died. Some writers say that she was beaten to death by other convicts, while others say that she died of typhoid fever. It ought to be said here that the kidnapping plot might have succeeded had it not been for the propensity on the part of the members of the group to talk too freely. It was this latter weakness that enabled the Governor to learn of the plot, and the prison-keeper to learn of her scheme to escape by making an impression of the prison key upon a piece of soap which she had sent out with her laundry to the washer-woman.

Litigation In The Snyder And Selin Families

In 1785 John Snyder, brother of Governor Simon Snyder, bought from Peter Weiser considerable land located on the northern portion of the Isle of Que and land west of Penn's Creek, now the site of the present borough of Selinsgrove. John Snyder surveyed and laid out in lots a portion of this land, and for this reason he might be called the original founder of Selinsgrove. Upon his death in 1787, which resulted from injuries sustained from falling from a horse, the property of ninety-three acres, after considerable delay because of being heavily encumbered, was finally disposed of at an administrators' sale in Sunbury in 1790. It was purchased by Anthony Selin, Sr., the brother-in-law and business partner of Simon Snyder. The three administrators of the John Snyder estate were Simon Snyder, John Miller, and Martin Kendig.

The heirs of John Snyder, undoubtedly nursing petty jealousies in the family, and evidently acting upon the advice of selfish and unscrupulous persons, instituted legal proceedings in the Northumberland County courts on the ground that they had been defrauded of a certain amount

of money as their rightful inheritance through the method of sale of the land. The different trials took place under Judge Seth Chapman (1811-1833) of the Eighth Judicial District which consisted at the time of Northumberland, Lycoming, and Luzerne Counties. Upon the formation of Union County in 1813, the Eighth Judicial District comprised Union, Northumberland, Lycoming, and Columbia Counties. The heirs claimed certain irregularities in the proceedings of the Orphans Court, accused Anthony Selin, Sr. with attempts to intimidate prospective buyers at the sale in order to make possible his purchase of the land at a lower figure than otherwise, and charged both Simon Snyder and Anthony Selin, Sr., with conspiracy to cheat the heirs out of their money. In this way the Snyder heirs sought to recover money to which they felt they were entitled.

The case originally was begun in Sunbury and later continued at Mifflinburg and New Berlin because of the formation of Union County in 1813 out of Northumberland County. The first decision of the court was against the heirs, but presumably on account of certain technicalities in the matter of the admission of testimony, the judgement of the lower court was reversed by the Supreme Court, and a new trial was ordered. After inexcusable delays in the court proceedings for which Judge Chapman appears to have been largely responsible, the second trial got under way. The decision of the court this time was in favor of the heirs. The case was tried again and judgement rendered again in favor of the heirs but the decision was reversed by the Supreme Court. In the trial of May, 1822, the jury was dismissed because it was found that a relative was sitting on it. In October of the same year, the court trial ended in a decision in favor of the heirs but the decision was reversed again by the Supreme Court. The much-prolonged litigation finally terminated by submitting the case to a commission of five arbitrators who rendered the award finally and unqualifiedly for the defendants.

It is indeed gratifying that the courts and the commission finally cleared the fair name of Simon Snyder of all intents and purposes to cheat his brother's children out of their money. The great misfortune of this uncalled for and unfortunate family quarrel lies in the fact that Governor Snyder wasn't privileged to live a few years

longer to see for himself this reproach upon his good name completely removed.

The Snyder Family

Something ought to be said about the family of Governor Snyder. The Snyder people constituted a large and illustrious family in this part of the state. Persons who are interested in the life story of the governor likewise have some interest in the members of his immediate family. Governor Snyder was married three times. His first wife was Elizabeth Michael of Lancaster to whom he was married in 1790. She died in 1793, and was buried in the New Lutheran Cemetery along Spruce Street in Selinsgrove. His second wife was Catherine Antes, the daughter of Colonel Frederick Antes, an officer in the Revolutionary War, and later sheriff of Northumberland County. They were married in 1796, and during the governor's first term of office she died at Lancaster, and was buried in the German Reformed Churchyard of that city. At the time of his second marriage, Simon Snyder was a member of the State Legislature. His third wife was Mrs. Mary Slough Scott, a widow from Harrisburg. They were married in 1814, and the wife who survived the governor, died in 1823 in Harrisburg. She was a member of the Episcopal Church and is reputed to have been the first person to start a Sunday School in Selinsgrove. During the residence of the governor in Selinsgrove, the Snyder family attended the Lutheran Church. At the time, the church building was a wooden structure located on the site of the present First Lutheran Church.

To the first marriage were born a daughter, Amelia, and a son, John. The daughter was born in 1791. In 1820 she married Dr. Phineas Jencks, a member of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly, from Bucks County.

The son, John Snyder, was born in 1793 and died in 1850, and was buried in the New Lutheran Cemetery in Selinsgrove. When only eighteen years old, he was a captain of a local company of Selinsgrove Volunteer riflemen, in the War of 1812. He enlisted without the knowledge of his father in response to the governor's call to arms, August 26, 1812. The second lieutenant of this company was his cousin, Anthony Selin, Jr. The company marched to Harrisburg, arrived in the middle of the

night, awoke the governor in the early morning hours, and presented his soldiers to him, all of whom later saw service in the war. It was said that the governor was pleased with this act of his son, stating that "it was the proudest moment of his life", and subsequently presented him with a beautiful sword made of Damascus steel. When the morning dawned the company marched to Marcus Hook where it camped. Like his father, John Snyder was married three times. His first wife was Mary Louise Kittera, the daughter of Hon. John Wilkes Kittera, Congressman from Lancaster, during the administrations of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson. The marriage took place in 1818, and the young couple took up their residence in the Governor's mansion on North Market Street, Selinsgrove. The children of this marriage were Mary Kittera Snyder who served as the postmistress of Selinsgrove in (1869-1879) and Elizabeth Snyder, married to James C. Vandyke, United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. John Snyder's first wife died about two months after the birth of his second daughter, Mary Kittera. The two daughters were reared in the home of their maternal grandmother, who at the time lived in Philadelphia with her son, Thomas Kittera. It is said that the Kittera family lived in constant fear that the two children would be kidnapped by their father, and therefore took every precaution to safeguard them against such an event. The two children were constantly guarded, and when traveling about in the city, were escorted by a negro attendant. It must be added that these fears were entirely unfounded since the father never designed anything of that kind.

During his subsequent marriages, John Snyder lived on a country estate, called Freedom, located near the mouth of the Middle Creek along what is now known as the Susquehanna Trail, south of Selinsgrove. This estate, the first farm south of the bridge across the Middle Creek, was later known as the Jacob W. Fisher farm. The dwelling house was located in what has been known for many years as an apple orchard. This house was destroyed by fire some years ago but the foundations may still be seen. John Snyder had a large paper mill on the southern bank of the Middle Creek. This mill was burned to the ground June 20, 1823, costing the lives of five people, three men and two boys. On this farm he raised fine horses and had a race track on which his horses were trained by his

stableman, "Buck" Claflin, the father of two notorious daughters, Victoria Claflin Woodhull, and Tennessee Claflin. On his estate John Snyder lived the life of a country gentleman. The impression left is that he was by no means a spiritually-minded man. He was eccentric and did not possess conscientious scruples about doing anything from stealing the bride of a friend to driving to church on an oxcart drawn by two large white oxen instead of coming in a carriage drawn by two of his spirited horses. It is said that he would come to Selinsgrove wearing a straw hat in winter, a woolen 'wammes', shoes tied with tow strings, and leading one or two dogs. To say the least, handsome John Snyder was a play-boy, an exhibitionist, and a persistent seeker of notoriety. He was nicknamed "Handsome John Snyder" to distinguish him from his uncle, "Black John Snyder", the first Snyder to settle in this locality, the original owner of the site of Selinsgrove, and the owner of the Isle of Que Mills. "Black John Snyder" was markedly of a dark complexion in sharp contrast to his nephew who had a fair or light complexion and blue eyes. John Snyder was tall and slender and much admired by the ladies, and he in turn admired them just as ardently. He was a social idol and attended social functions in the towns and cities located far and wide from Philadelphia to Williamsport. The children from his subsequent marriages were Mrs. G. W. Walls of Lewisburg and Mrs. Daniel Musselman of Selinsgrove. John Snyder served as Congressman of the Thirteenth District of Pennsylvania, composed of the counties of Northumberland, Union, and Lycoming. He was a member of the Twenty-seventh Congress (1841-43). He was defeated in 1844 in the special election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of General Henry Frick.

To the second marriage of Governor Snyder were born five children. Henry W. Snyder (1797-1866) followed a varied business career such as farming, insurance, and contractor for the Pennsylvania Canal Company. During the Civil War, he served as the paymaster of the United States Army at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He died at Ft. Leavenworth and was buried in the new Lutheran Cemetery in Selinsgrove. His son, Simon Snyder, served as an officer in the Civil War, in Indian Wars, in the Spanish-American War, and in the Philippine Insurrection. He retired as brigadier-general of the United States Army in

1902. A second son, George A. Snyder (1799-1865) at various times practiced law, served as the prothonotary of Union County, taught school, and edited a newspaper in New Berlin. He was married to Ann Ellen Duncan to whom were born eight children. The youngest son of the governor was Antes, who was the subject of the proposed kidnapping by Mrs. Ann Carson Smith. He was a graduate of the West Point Military Academy and served as the representative of our government to England, relative to the building of railroads. As an engineer he de-



The Governor's Mansion on North Market Street

signed and built a number of large stone bridges over the Schuylkill River and other bridges on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. He died in Pottstown in December, 1861.

The Death Of The Governor

Upon the expiration of his term of office as governor in 1817, Governor Snyder retired to his home in Selinsgrove. He had served as the chief executive of the State for nine years, from 1808 to 1817, during the administrations of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. Almost immediately he was chosen at the general election to serve as over-seer of the Poor of Penn Township, and began to discharge the duties of that office with his characteristic earnestness and efficiency. In October, 1818, he was

elected to the State Senate for a four-year term, but succeeded in serving only during one session of the legislature. He died at his home in Selinsgrove of typhoid fever November 9, 1819, at the age of sixty years, loved and respected by his fellow townsmen. In his latter days, his life became unhappy and burdensome because of domestic afflictions, family cares, and harrassing litigation within the family. By his continued public service covering thirty-five years of his life, he must have neglected his own private affairs and the care of his estates. The grief over the death of his son, Frederick, September 13, 1819, plus business anxieties resulting from having been too generous in assisting financially his friends and relatives, evidently weakened his constitution to such an extent that he was ill-prepared to withstand the attack of the disease.

Burial Place And The Monument

He was buried in the Old First Lutheran Church Cemetery on High and Bough Streets, in the very heart of the town of Selinsgrove. For seventeen years his grave was unmarked. In 1836 a plain marble slab without any inscription was placed over his grave. This slab now marks the grave of his son, John Snyder (1793-1850) in the cemetery of the New Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove.

Through the efforts of the Hon. Simon P. Wolverton, Senator of the Twenty-Seventh Senatorial District composed of Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties, and the Hon. G. Alfred Schoch, the Assemblyman from Snyder County, an Act of the Assembly, May 24, 1881, provided for an appropriation of \$3,000 for the erection of a suitable monument over the grave of Simon Snyder. The Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and the Secretary of Internal Affairs, were designated in the act to carry out its provisions. A large monument of Quincy granite surmounted by a life-size bust of the governor now marks his grave. On the panels of the monument on the east, west, and south sides are bronze medallions representing the governor as a tanner, farmer, and statesman. On the south side is found the coat-of-arms of the State with the inscription—"Erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the memory of Simon Snyder"; on the north side of the monument are inscribed the dates of his birth and death and the important events of his life.

The monument was unveiled by Miss Mary Lillian Snyder, a great-granddaughter of the governor May 27, 1885, in the presence of a large concourse of people. Many of the descendants of the governor were present.



The Governor's Burial Place and Monument

A special train of twenty-two passenger coaches from Harrisburg, brought the governor, the members of the State Legislature, and the heads of the various departments of the State Government. The Twelfth Regiment Band of the National Guards of Pennsylvania provided the music for the day. Among the distinguished personages present may be mentioned Governor Robert E. Pattison, Ex-Governors Andrew G. Curtin and John F. Hartranft, and ex-

United States Senator Simon Cameron, and Judges Finley and Bucher. Hon. John B. Packer, Hon. Hugh M. North, Major William P. Elliot, the latter was in his ninety-third year and had held a commission under Governor Snyder, and Captain William Wayne, a descendant of General Anthony Wayne. A parade took place in the afternoon under the chief marshalship of Dr. B. F. Wagenseller. Following the parade Governor Pattison delivered the address transferring the monument to the community, and A. W. Potter, Esq., received it in trust on behalf of the citizens. Addresses were also given by Ex-Governors Curtin and Hartranft and the Hon. Simon Cameron. The address delivered by Rev. J. P. Shindel, Sr., at the funeral services of the governor was translated and read by Professor Daniel S. Boyer, followed by its reading in the original by Rev. J. P. Shindel, Jr. An historical address giving a very complete biography of the governor was prepared by Professor Boyer as a part of the proceedings of the occasion.

The Governor Snyder Mansion On North Market Street

The most outstanding home in Selinsgrove is the Governor Snyder Mansion. Selinsgrove was originally laid out with a central square and the mansion is conspicuously located on its northeast corner. The old stone mansion with its massive walls stands out prominently among the residences of the town. The structure was built of native limestone by the governor in 1816. Its walls are eighteen inches in thickness. The windows are unusually large and the window sills exceptionally deep. The high-arched front door is ten feet high and is surmounted with a fan-shaped window over which is a keystone forming the central arch. The door step is of sandstone. Upon entering the mansion, one finds himself in a small reception room. The hallway is large and from it ascends an old-fashioned circular stairway to the second and third floors, with its circular railing and landings at every turn. Although the house is a large one, there are but few rooms, all of which, however, are of more than ample proportions and have open hearths. The kitchen originally was in the cellar. The cellar contains a large wide-open fireplace which was used for the preparation of the meals. This fireplace contains a swinging crane holding an iron pot. A beautiful garden joins the mansion. All of these are happy memorials of its first occu-

pants, and remind the visitor of the comforts of such a home in that day.

Governor Snyder lived in this house until his death November 9, 1819, while serving as a member of the State Senate. While the mansion was in process of construction, the governor lived on Water Street in a house almost directly opposite the present location of the Methodist Church. With the exception of the introduction of the modern heating and lighting systems, and a few minor repairs made necessary by the fire of 1874, the old stone mansion stands today just the way the governor built it, lived in it, and died in it. Following the death of the governor the house was occupied by members of the family until 1827, when the governor's son, Henry W. Snyder, acquired it. In 1852 he conveyed the property to his son, Antes, who in turn willed it to his widow, Mary B. Snyder. She sold the mansion in 1864 to George W. Zeigler of Sunbury, who sold it the following year to Samuel Alleman. After his death, it was owned and occupied by his son, Horace P. Alleman and family. In 1918 the mansion was purchased from the Alleman heirs by Attorney and Mrs. Harry H. Coryell who have occupied it since that time. At the time that Attorney Coryell purchased the house, he sold a portion of the front lawn to Wetzel and Bolig upon which they erected a hardware store building and an apartment.

On Tuesday, May 14, 1918, a bronze tablet on the wall of the mansion was unveiled. Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh and members of the State Historical Commission were present. The tablet is in the shape of a keystone and contains the following inscription:

This house was built in 1816 by Simon Snyder, Governor of Pennsylvania, and was occupied by him until his death.

Selected Readings

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Autobiographical Notes by Simon Snyder

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CHAPTER 2

The Geography of the County

Man modifies nature, and nature modifies man but the thoughts and desires of men are more influenced by physical phenomena than they influence such phenomena.

Thomas Buckle

Snyder County is located near the central part of the state on the right bank of the Susquehanna River. The county is somewhat quadrangular in shape, being approximately twenty-eight miles long and eighteen miles wide. It is bounded on the north by Union County, on the east by Northumberland County, on the south by Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties, and on the west by Mifflin County. It is situated between $40^{\circ} 36'$ and 41° north latitude, and between $76^{\circ} 51'$ and $77^{\circ} 15'$ west longitude. The campus of Susquehanna University has a latitude of $40^{\circ} 48'$, and a longitude of $76^{\circ} 52'$. Its area in square miles has been variously designated. The History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys states that its area is 320 square miles; Smull's Legislative Handbook or the Pennsylvania State Manual consistently quotes 329 square miles as the area. Other sources quote 311, 317, and 321 square miles as the area. Snyder County is one of the smaller counties of the State. There are only four counties—Montour, Philadelphia, Delaware, and Union—that have smaller areas.

The boundary lines of the County for sections of the northern and southern parts and for the entire eastern part are natural boundary lines, and consist of Jacks Mountain, Penn's Creek, Mahantongo* Creek, and the Susquehanna River. For the remaining parts, the boundary lines have been artificially established, and with one exception show no unusual irregularity. In the Susquehanna River, the low water mark on the west shore is recognized as the legal dividing line between Snyder and Northumberland Counties. A straight line drawn across the top of Jacks Mountain extending in its southwesterly direction is technically regarded the dividing line between Union and Snyder Counties.

The boundary line between the counties of Juniata and Snyder exhibits at one place a rather strange peculiarity. Just before entering Richfield, a person is in Snyder County, in passing through the town, he finds him-

*Indian Word (where we ate plentiful meat)



self in Juniata County, then again in Snyder County, and almost immediately upon leaving it, once more in Juniata County. This is a peculiar situation because county lines generally follow a stream, a mountain, or a highway instead of zigzagging across an old road in use since the first trails were blazed through the primeval forests. There is evidently a reason for this unique condition. When Northumberland County was formed in 1772 out of portions of Cumberland, Lancaster, Bedford, Berks, and Northampton Counties, there was no definite boundary line between Northumberland and Cumberland Counties; when the boundary line between Snyder and Juniata Counties was fixed, a line was drawn at an angle of about 30° from the top of Mt. Tussey on Shade Mountain to the Robert Mateer spring, and then from the spring to the West Branch of Mahantango Creek, which from there on became the boundary line. The spring had been named the Robert Mateer spring after a Revolutionary War soldier who was a landholder in this section but who later moved to Ohio. When the surveyors were running the county line in this section, tradition reports that they were attracted to a distillery, and so they ran their line to it. Evidently after they had satisfied their thirst, they ran the line back again to Mahantango Creek from which they were supposed to run it in the first place. This explains just why a little bit of Snyder County juts into Juniata County. When the motorist, on his way to Mifflintown, crosses the concrete bridge over Mahantango Creek, east of Richfield, he passes from Snyder County into Juniata County. About two miles west of the town, he re-enters Snyder County for a distance of approximately one-eighth mile on account of the jut of Snyder County into Juniata County, and from there he continues through Juniata County to Mifflintown.

Surface Features

Jacks Mountain, Penn's Creek, and the ridge road through Monroe and Jackson Townships, form, for the most part, the northern boundary line of the county. Jacks Mountain extends from the town of Penns Creek in a south-westerly direction to the Jack's Narrows in the Juniata Valley, near Mt. Union, Huntingdon County, and from thence southward to the Mason and Dixon Line, and even beyond. The mountain* was named after Captain

*Espenshade—Pennsylvania Place Names

Jack Armstrong, an Indian trader in Colonial Days. Armstrong and his two companions, Woodward Arnold and James Smith, were found murdered in the Jack's Narrows in 1744. These three traders with the Indians customarily traveled through the Juniata Narrows from Lancaster to Kittanning Point. The person definitely implicated in the murder was Musemeelin, a Delaware Indian, who lived at the time at the Delaware Run, near the present town of Thompsonstown, Juniata County. He stealthily followed the three men, and at an opportune moment succeeded in killing them. Shortly afterwards, the Indian was arrested and confined in jail at Lancaster, and later removed to Philadelphia where he was tried for murder, found guilty and hanged. It appears that the motive for the murder was the getting of plunder, and not necessarily revenge.

Shade Mountain extends east and west through the central portion of the county, from Mt. Pleasant Mills to Shade Gap in Huntingdon County. The mountain was probably named after a family of that name, although there is a tradition that it received the name from the fact that it never casts a shade on Snyder County. It appears, however, rather contradictory to have the mountain named on such a basis. It might appropriately be stated that Snyder County is an eastward extension of the Lewistown Valley, broken into two portions by Shade Mountain. The Middle Creek Valley with its fertile farms lies between Jacks Mountain on the north and Shade Mountain on the South. The numerous ridges across the county extend in the same general direction from the north-east to the south-west. At some places along the Susquehanna River, the river valley spreads out into the open country only to become narrow and broken up by ridges and hills farther west. In some places along its course, the river eroded down the mountains so that the land along its banks projects in the form of huge bluffs like that at the Blue Hill and the Narrows below Selinsgrove. The general slope of the land is toward the south and east, as indicated by the course of the river and its tributaries.

The Washington Township area of the county consists of three valleys extending approximately in an east and west direction and three ridges paralleling these valleys.

The northern ridge directly south of Kreamer is known as the Chestnut Ridge which abounds in hematite or fossil iron ore. This ore was mined on a rather large scale at one time and hauled by wagon-teams to the railroad stations at Kreamer and Meiser on the Sunbury and Lewis-town Railroad. The middle ridge which is called the Flintstone Ridge, is located immediately to the south of Freeburg and abounds in limestone rock. There are many limestone quarries and lime kilns on the north side of this ridge. The valley between Chestnut Ridge and Flintstone Ridge, drained by the Wissahickon Creek, is geographically known as Pleasant Valley but popularly referred to as the Freeburg Valley. The valley was known many years ago as the "Klopperdahl". The third ridge is known as Neitz's Ridge and is located immediately south of the Flintstone Ridge. This ridge has some limestone formations and iron-ore beds. The valley between the Flintstone Ridge and Neitz's Ridge is called Flintstone Valley. Neitz's Valley is located between Neitz's Ridge and the ridge beyond.

In the northern portion of Perry Township, next to Shade Mountain, is Heister's Valley. In the middle part is Limestone Valley and in the portions toward the south of Mt. Pleasant Mills are Potato Valley and Buckwheat Valley. The valley beyond Mt. Pleasant Mills westward and extending to Richfield, is known as the Graybill Valley, and the valley beyond Richfield westward to the Juniata River is known as the Juniata Valley. Musser's Valley includes the whole section from the town of Penns Creek westward to and including the town of Troxelville, between Jacks Mountain on the north and the first "string" of low ridges to the south.

State Highway number fifteen from Shamokin Dam to Lewisburg traverses a valley formerly known as Sanders' Hollow, named after families by that name living in the valley. At the time these families became affiliated with the State Grange, this organization was not popular with some people of that locality. In the spirit of derision, these people named the valley Granger's Hollow in place of Sanders' Hollow.

The elevation above sea-level of the county on the campus of Susquehanna University is 476 feet. The elevations of the public roads in the county as determined

in 1905 by government engineers are for Middleburg, 498 feet, for Beaver Springs, 591 feet, for the Summit area, 833 feet, for the top of Shade Mountain at Beaver Springs, 1672 feet, and for Richfield, 658 feet. The highest elevation in the Jacks Mountain Area is 2126½ feet, east of the Snyder-Mifflin boundary line.

Caves, sink-holes, and sinking springs, are found in the limestone areas of the county. The Flintstone Ridge immediately south of Freeburg and the Limestone Ridge north of Fremont have a number of caverns. The principal ones are Heim's or Boyer's near Mt. Pleasant Mills, and Hoffman's, south of Freeburg. Such caverns may be found only in limestone areas because of the solubility of the limestone rock when exposed to rainwater laden with carbonic acid gas. When such rainwater percolates through the earth, it dissolves the limestone rock, and in course of time an underground channel known as a cavern is formed. The rate of formation of a cavern depends on the resistance of the rock to this solvent action as well as on the amount of carbonic acid in the rainwater. In these local caves are found some beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. The former are the formations suspended from the roof of the cave; the later are the formations rising from the floor of the cave.

The sink-holes have been produced by the caving in of the top soil into these underground caverns during prolonged wet seasons.

Natural Resources

Snyder County is far from being rich in minerals and metals. Some of the ridges contain iron-ore, limestone, sandstone, building stone, shales, and clay for brick-making, but scarcely any mineral wealth at all, at least by no means in sufficient quantities to make mining anything like a profitable industry. A good deal of money has been wasted in the county at different times in a vain search for coal, silver, and gold. One and one-half miles east of Beavertown, is located the Feese or Carpenter farm where it was reported January, 1915, that valuable deposits of gold and silver were discovered. Another purported discovery of the precious metal was promulgated by "Simmy" Beaver, formerly the proprietor of a hotel in New Berlin. The site of his would-be silver mine

was on the north side of Penn's Creek along the ridge east of the Kratzerville bridge. Excitements about the finding of coal near the town of Penns Creek, in Flint Valley, around Port Ann, and in other parts of the county, occurred at various times around the beginning of the present century. Geologically speaking, the Devonian shales which are black in color and frequently contain amounts of coal and occasionally traces of oil have been mistaken as evidences of coal and oil in commercial quantities.

The county experienced its wildcat speculations and get-rich-quick schemes just as did many other counties of the state. Many of the Pennsylvania German people have persistently believed that there has to be some mineral wealth stored up in the hills and mountains, since the hills can't be of use for anything else. A knowledge of the geology of the county, however, makes it evident that coal, silver, and gold mining will never be among the industries of this area. All the coal found in Central Pennsylvania occurs in the carboniferous rocks, and all the known rocks of the county are those found below the carboniferous. Hence, no coal to any extent can be found in them, and all attempts at coal-mining in the county on a workable scale will prove utterly futile and useless.

Iron-ore beds of the hematite variety are found on both sides of Jacks Mountain and along the Shamokin Mountains (New Berlin Mountain or the Longstown Ridge) from a locality west of New Berlin to Winfield. The iron-ore industry reached its greatest development along the north side of the Shade Mountain in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This indicates that iron-ore is widely distributed in the county, and was mined rather extensively but soon abandoned because it was commercially unprofitable to mine it. Among the determining factors were the costs of marketing it, the shallowness of the beds, the quality of the ore, and the difficulties and costs of mining it. The furnaces in operation at the time for the reduction of the iron from the ores were of the charcoal type, and the iron-ore was mined in the locality of these furnaces. With the introduction of coal as a fuel, charcoal went into disuse, the local furnaces were abandoned, and the iron-ore was transported to other places for smelting. Among these furnaces may be mentioned the Beaver Furnace at Paxtonville and the Union Furnace at Winfield.

Drainage

The Susquehanna River,* called by the Indians "Otzinachson," constitutes the eastern boundary of the county. It flows south into Chesapeake Bay. It has a fall of about two feet per mile along the territory of Snyder County. The drainage of the county shows that the slope of the land is toward the south as indicated by the river course and eastward from the interior of the county toward the river as indicated by Penn's Creek, Middle Creek, West Mahantango Creek, and by the smaller tributaries of the Susquehanna River. A very small portion of the extreme western part of the county is drained westward by Jack's Creek into the Juniata River. Penn's Creek and Middle Creek are the largest tributaries of the Susquehanna River in Snyder County. Penn's Creek rises in Penn's Cave in Centre County, about fifty miles west of the Susquehanna River, and originally flowed into the Susquehanna River to the north of Selinsgrove, between Nigger Island and the Isle of Que. Middle Creek takes its rise in the western part of the county. A short distance below Selinsgrove, after passing over the concrete bridge across Middle Creek, the traveler may observe to the east the confluence of Middle Creek and Penn's Creek. From there on, the two streams flow as one southward into the Susquehanna River at the extreme southern point of the Isle of Que where the river has cut a gateway through the mountains forming its bed and the Union Township Narrows. Middle Creek was known as "Christinum" to the Indians but named Middle Creek by the white settlers, as some believe, because it flows between Jack's Mountain and Shade Mountain. This is highly improbable, however, for the reason that every stream between two mountains should then rightfully be named "Middle". It is much more likely that it was named because of its location between "Big Mahanoy Creek" (Penn's Creek) and "Little Mahanoy Creek" in Northumberland County, that flows into the Susquehanna River north of Herndon.

The drainage area of Penn's Creek is about 361 square miles and that of Middle Creek about 147 square miles. The Susquehanna River rises in New York State. Its

*An old legend says that the river derived its name from two Indian words—"Susque" (crooked) and "Hanna" (stream of water). The Susquehanna is truly a winding stream. Another legend says the first part means "Are you there?" and the last part means "I am here".

basin covers 27,400 square miles of which 21,060 square miles are in Pennsylvania, 6,080 square miles are in New York, and 260 square miles are in Maryland. The river at Athens in Tioga County, 297 miles from its mouth, has an elevation of 752 ft. above sea-level. The river at Selinsgrove, 126 miles from its mouth has an elevation of 422 ft. above sea-level. Wissahickon Creek, formed by the springs and the streams of the Chestnut and Flintstone Ridges, flows through Pleasant Valley into Middle Creek. Today the creek bed in certain places through the valley is the bed of the proposed railroad of 1871. A small stream flows through Neitz's valley into Middle Creek. The West Mahantango Creek is the county boundary line along the southern and southwestern parts of the county. The North Mahantango Creek takes its rise in the slopes of Limestone Ridge and in the foothills of Shade Mountain in Perry Township, flows almost directly south through Perry Township, joins the West Mahantango Creek in its course eastward, and empties into the Susquehanna River a short distance below McKees Half Falls. The Monongahela Creek rises in the neighborhood of Krouse's schoolhouse in Middlecreek Township and empties into Penn's Creek a short distance below Kratzerville. The Tuscarora Creek rises in the neighborhood of Sauer's schoolhouse in Middlecreek Township and empties into Penn's Creek a short distance above New Berlin.

The county has numerous springs well distributed practically all over the county. Springs had a great significance in the days of the early settlements. A never-failing spring was often the deciding factor in locating a new home in the wilderness. This is borne out by the fact that a spring is located near to, or in practically all of the oldest homes. This precaution was taken as a measure of safety in case of Indian attacks. On the north side of the stone house at Bake Oven Hill is a spring flowing from the base of the hill on whose slope the house stands. The water flows through the lower story of the house and formerly supplied the water for the way-side watering trough. At the Hall Homestead farther down the Susquehanna Trail is found a spring on the south side of the house with the water flowing through the house. This situation, so common in these old homesteads, provided excellent refrigeration for the milk, butter, and foods that were kept in the water trough.

On the old John George Ulrich farm, a short distance west of Selinsgrove, is located a spring, which was frequented by the Indians who lived in the vicinity, and whose water supply was used later for a tannery at this place. On the Samuel Pawling farm, west of Selinsgrove, is a never-failing spring whose waters flow through a stone springhouse. At this farm a slave pen in the bank barn is still in evidence. On the old Henry Moyer homestead is located a spring which at one time was the site of a tar-burning establishment. The Miller homestead west of Salem has a beautiful spring, reached by a wooden staircase. The water bubbles forth from huge rocks that constitute the road-bed of the old State Highway, Number 522, and flows through the center of the stone house. Pomfret Castle in Snyder County near Richfield, has within its stone walls a never-failing spring. The spring is located in the northeast corner of the fortification, is built in by stonewalls, and flows through the dividing wall by way of an arched opening, into the main part of the lower section of the fort. From there it continues on its way under the south fortification wall and through the meadow in its course to the waters of the West Mahantongo Creek. The Schoch Block House at Kreamer was built in 1762 by Mathias Schoch over a spring as a refuge for the settlers against marauding Indians. A spring is found on the old Melchior Stock homestead, east of Globe Mills. The site of the boyhood home of the Hon. Ner Middleswarth, south of Beavertown, can readily be located because of the walled-in spring even though the buildings have long since disappeared. Practically every historic homestead in the county has its spring to mark the site of the home selected by these pioneer settlers.

There are many springs in the county to which no special historical significance can be attached according to our present knowledge. Some of the springs contain a considerable amount of mineral substances such as lime and magnesia, and their waters are known as "hard" since they cannot very well be used for washing purposes of account of their unfavorable chemical action with soap. The water that emerges from the hard sandstone rocks is generally very pure and "soft" and contains very little mineral substances. An artesian well drilled at Fair Oaks' schoolhouse in 1898, about one mile north of Salem, in Penn Township, discharges sulphur water and may be

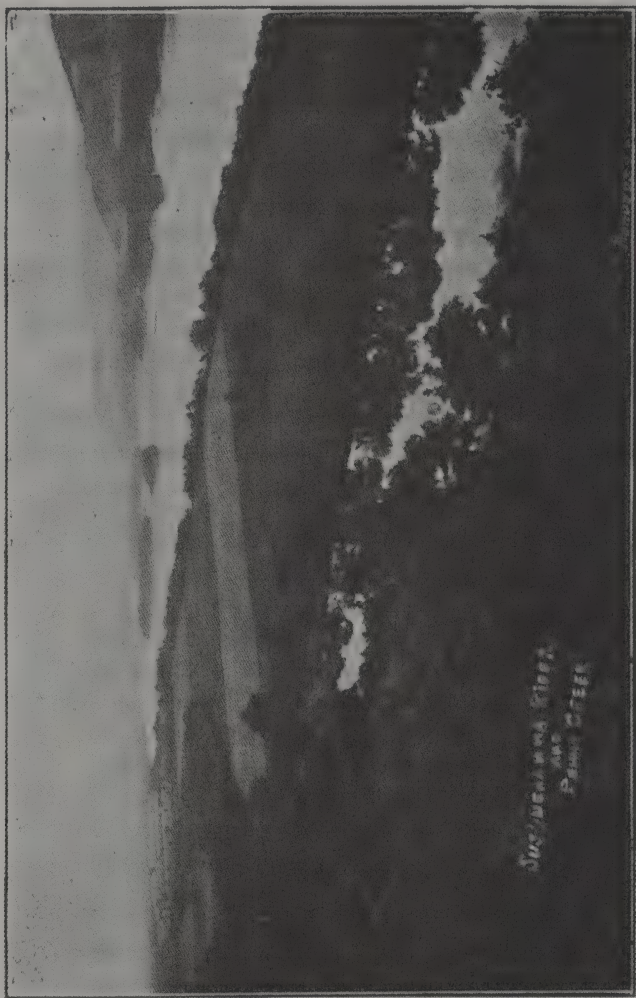
considered an artificial sulphur spring. The water is heavily impregnated with hydrogen sulphide (H_2S) gas and has an offensive odor and taste. Spring Township, in the western part of the county, was named after its numerous springs. In the town of Beaver Springs is a large and beautiful spring that has attracted the attention and admiration of many people from different parts of the country and state.

Isle of Que and Islands in the Susquehanna River

The Susquehanna River is the eastern boundary of the county. Much of this river course of twenty-five miles is dotted by many beautiful islands. Since the low water mark constitutes the actual boundary line, all the islands belong to Northumberland County with the single exception of the Isle of Que. Among these islands may be mentioned Albert's, Burns', Buyer's, Clark's, Cooper's, Fisher's, Herrold's, Hetrick's, Hoover's, Hosterman's, McPherson's, Snyder's, Seiler's, and Silverwood's. These are their names now, but their names are subject to change with the change in ownership. Some of these islands were named after their original owner, or after the family that farmed it, or for some other characteristic peculiar to the island. Calf Island was the pasture of young cows. Wood Island was covered with trees. Cherry Island abounded in wild cherry trees. Duck Island was the favorite home of the wild ducks. Crow Island was so called because so many crows nested there. Black Hawk Island was named after a large black hawk that made its home there. Nigger Island was so named about 1844 because some unruly negroes who had driven their owner away and had defied the law authorities, were finally caught on this island after their escape from the jail at Sunbury. At one time all these islands were covered with a heavy growth of timber. Portions of the island were farmed, melons in large numbers were grown there, or the islands were used for pasturage for cattle. Some of the islands were re-forested but the great flood of 1936 left heavy deposits of coal dirt on them so that only a few of the smaller islands can be used for farm purposes today. Most of the islands at the present time, for the most part, are grown up with underbrush and scrub trees, or are covered over with gravel and coal dirt.

While there are very many islands in the Susquehanna

River bordering on Snyder County, the Isle of Que is the largest island, and the only one strictly located in Snyder County. All the other islands are in Northumberland County, since the boundary line between the two counties is the low water mark on the west side. The



"Isle of Que"
Looking North Toward Selinsgrove

Isle of Que is about three miles long and about one mile wide at its greatest width. Strictly speaking, it is not an island any more since 1824. In its middle portion is located the extreme eastern part of Selinsgrove. The origin of its name is not definitely known. Probably it came from the French "Queue" or "tail" or "tail-

island" because of the fancied resemblance of the island to the queues of the wig-bearers so common in the middle of the eighteenth century. If this is the correct explanation, the name evidently was given to the island by the French-Canadian fur-traders who traveled through the section to ply their trade with the Indians even before white settlements had been made. The soil is exceedingly fertile, consisting for the most part of alluvial deposits, and in some portions of gravel deposits. The island originally was covered with heavy timbers. Fish and game in abundance must have made the island a favorite hunting ground for the Indians. The island formerly was rich in Indian relics. It was undoubtedly a favorite place of residence by the Indians. A large burial ground evidently was located at the southern end of the island since skeletons have been unearthed there over a large area. The Isle of Que holds a very prominent place in the early history of this community.

Before the days of the canal, the Penn's Creek or Big Mahanoy Creek, branched a short distance above Selinsgrove, just about where the Maine Saw Mill was located, and emptied into the Susquehanna River by two mouths. The left branch flowed eastward into the river about one-half mile above the town, and the right branch, in the form of a small winding stream, flowed southward dividing the mainland from the Isle of Que. Some distance below Selinsgrove it joined Middle Creek, and then flowed eastward into the Susquehanna River. The present mouth of Penn's Creek is about two miles below Selinsgrove. To avoid building two aqueducts, one across Penn's Creek and the other one across Middle Creek, the canal company changed the course of Penn's Creek and made it flow down the course of a winding brook for one and one-half miles into the Middle Creek. The result was that the original course of Penn's Creek became changed from the northern extremity of the Isle of Que, that part of the creek which flowed formerly between the Isle of Que and Nigger Island became a dry bottom, and the Isle of Que became practically a peninsula. In September, 1934, heavy rains and high water caused the creek to flow through its original bed into the Susquehanna River at Nigger Island thus making the Isle of Que once more an island.

Weather, Temperature and Precipitations

The temperatures in the county range from 100° Fahrenheit in the hottest part of the summer months to about 30° below zero in the coldest winter months. Generally speaking, zero weather is considered very cold weather, and 90° is considered hot weather. In January, 1840, the weather was so cold that a pack of wolves, driven down from Jacks and Shade Mountains by the intense cold and hunger, killed some domestic animals in the neighborhood of Beavertown. In the winters of 1835 and 1836, the thermometers registered 22° below zero, in January, 1841, it was 30° below zero, and in January, 1904, it was 24° below zero. In January, 1912, the county experienced the coldest weather recorded in forty years.

The United States Weather Bureau employs the term precipitation to include rain, melted snow, hail, and sleet. The general average precipitation at Selinsgrove weather station is about thirty-nine inches annually for the past fifty years, or the period of operation of this station. If this average annual precipitation is exceeded, then it is called a wet year. In the month of May, 1946, the total rainfall for the month was 11.32 in. This amount was nearly one-third of the average annual precipitation of the county. In 1945 the county had a very wet year with a total of fifty inches of precipitation. During that year, the county experienced a dry spell in February with only 1.73 in. of precipitation, and four inches of snow-fall which was the equivalent of .2 in. of precipitation. In 1945, there were 21.8 in. of snow fall in January, four inches in February, and none until December, when there were fifteen inches of snow fall, making a total of 40.8 in. of snow fall during the winter of 1945-1946.

The rainfall in Snyder County varies throughout the year; usually it is the heaviest in the spring months, March, April, and May, and the lightest in the summer and fall months. Snowfall is always heaviest during the winter months of December, January, and February. There may be a heavy snow as early as the latter part of November and as late as May but it generally melts as fast as it falls.

Weather Station

Snyder County has had a Weather Station since August, 1888, when John M. Boyer of Selinsgrove was

appointed the official observer. At that time the weather service was part of the Signal Corps of the United States Army, and weather signal flags were displayed daily from the roof of the Noetling Building. The shelter, which housed the maximum and the minimum thermometers, was located in the yard and garden of the observer. In 1891 the weather service became a bureau of the Department of Agriculture, and then Boyer received daily forecasts by telegraph which he printed on cards and mailed to all the post-offices of the county. This service he continued to render gratuitously until his health began to fail, and he was compelled to give up the work. From May, 1918, to October, 1918, Guyen R. Kreamer was the observer. After this short respite, Boyer took up the work again and continued until January, 1921, when the station was moved to the campus of Susquehanna University, where Dr. Thomas C. Houtz, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, became the observer and served in that capacity until June, 1925. At this time, Dr. George E. Fisher, Professor of Chemistry, took over this work and served until October, 1946, when Merle Hoover, Instructor of Physics, became the observer and served until June, 1947. In July of that year, the weather station was moved to the Selinsgrove Airport.

Soils

When people refer to soil, they usually mean the loose surface materials of the earth in which plants grow, consisting for the most part of a mixture of decomposed rock and organic matter. According to geology the surface of the earth at one time was made up of solid rock. In the course of ages, these rocks became decomposed and broken up by weathering, erosion, and by the chemical action of the elements of the atmosphere, then what is known as soil resulted. In this light, soil is largely composed of decomposed rock. The rich, dark portion of the soil consisting of the decomposed animal and vegetable matter is known as humus or mould, and when mixed with earthy materials is known as fertile soil. The portion found immediately beneath this fertile soil, containing little or no humus, is known as subsoil.

The soil in the valley is deeper and richer in humus than that found on hills and ridges. The reason is that the soil on hillsides has little chance to accumulate where it is formed because it is rapidly washed into the valley

below. For this reason the productive soil of a country is usually found in the valleys of its streams, creeks and rivers. Limestone rock produces a good soil while sandstones are likely to produce a thin, poor type of soil. Different shales of the red, black, and gray varieties produce soil of varying fertility from the barren to very good soil. The fertility of soil is indicated by the quantity and the quality of the cultivated crops produced. Even the luxuriance of natural vegetation is not always a dependable sign of plant fertility to grow cultivated crops. There are some wild plants that appear to thrive on poor soil; the cultivated kind invariably demand soil rich in plant food, and this richness is usually brought about by the accumulation of decomposed organic matter or by the generous use of barnyard manure and lime, as well as by artificial fertilizers. So many soils have a very limited supply of the chemical elements necessary for plant growth and the ripening of the seed that they soon become barren unless constantly fed by fertilizers.

The valleys of Penn's Creek, Middle Creek, the Tuscarora, the Monongahela, the Mahantango, the Wissahickon, and certain areas along the Susquehanna River comprise some of the best soil that may be found anywhere. There is some very fine farming land in Monroe and Penn Townships. In fact here can be found some of the best farms in the entire county. The land in the lower part of the county along the river front is fertile and very productive. Back from the river, it is rolling and even hilly and composed of sandstone, limestone, and red shales. Still farther back, the soil is a mixture of yellow gravel and of a sandy loam. There are no large streams in this portion of the county to irrigate the land or to transport soils from a distance as is the case with creeks and rivers. Alluvial soils can be found only at the mouth of streams and along their banks. Areas of Monroe and Penn Townships furnish evidence of glacial soil. This soil was brought here by means of glaciers.

Plant And Animal Life

Too many citizens have been too indifferent over a period of too many years toward the conservation of our plant and animal life. The ruthless destruction of timberlands for commercial gains, the clearing of the forests for agricultural purpose, and the forest fires that raged unchecked, are the grim reminders of the recklessness,

and destructiveness of human nature. The first efforts to conserve plant and animal life met with much opposition and ridicule. Any effort through legislative enactments to regulate and control natural resources met with defeat. After years of effort on the part of a few far-seeing conservationists, public opinion began to see the handwriting on the wall. Change for the better could be discernible among the citizens at large. For the past twenty-five years, considerable progress has been made towards the conservation of our trees, wild life, and the fish in our streams. This progress is shown in the preservation of state forest lands, the precautionary measures against forest fires, and the planting of trees on an extensive scale. At last man is making the necessary amends for his ruthlessness in the destruction of animal and vegetable life.

County Game Protector, Clarence F. Walker of Beavertown, in an address before the Snyder County Historical Society in 1942, stressed two important facts peculiar to Snyder County. The one is that the county is situated at the dividing line between the plant and animal life of the North and the South; the other is that the county has been selected as the nursery area from which the Commonwealth directs its battle for the restoration of the chestnut trees. A fungus scourge has practically eliminated the chestnut tree, once so numerous and so useful in every community. Chestnut trees have provided the families with nuts for winter evenings, and the wood was used for telegraph poles, railroad ties, and for enclosures of fields and farms. Chestnut wood was used for rails because it split easily. It was also extensively used as firewood.

The disappearance of the chestnut and the hickory played havoc on the squirrels and other animals that depended largely on these nuts for their winter food. These animals were busily occupied in the fall of the year in storing up these nuts for their winter use. They stored them in hollow trees and stumps or buried them in mother earth even though they might never be able to locate them again. Still these nuts served their purpose in self-preservation by becoming trees again. Our forest conservation program merits the commendation of future generations in the planting of blight-resisting chestnut trees.

Snyder County has a flora of outstanding significance among the counties of the state because of its climatic conditions and latitudinal location. The community bat-

tle for the restoration of the chestnut tree was started in a small nursery of five acres in the Beavertown area. Under Walker's supervision, hardy growths were brought to seedling development about a foot in height. Some of these were shipped to other counties and found that they continued to grow. More seedlings were distributed so that by the close of the year 1941, over 300,000 seedlings had been distributed among all the other counties of the state. These growths were found to be blight-resistant to a very high degree, so that great hopes could be entertained that the chestnut was not hopelessly doomed to extinction. The Commonwealth in 1942 purchased 970 acres of land in Beaver and Adams Townships in the Jacks Mountain area to be developed into a vast chestnut nursery. Since that time the state has added 600 acres in the Shade Mountain section of Perry Township for further expansion of this work. The original nursery of five acres is being replaced by the transplanting of seedlings in these new areas comprising 1570 acres. The war situation has prevented the further expansion of this conservation program. These forward steps are very encouraging for the return of the chestnut tree again to forest and farm.

It is said that Snyder County possesses more than 100 species of trees alone. Among the more common trees of the county may be mentioned the cedar, spruce, hemlock, white and yellow pine, black locust, the red, black, white, and chestnut oaks, white ash, horse chestnut, maple, birch, persimmon, mulberry, beach, bass wood, gum, crabapple, willow, and elm, the different fruit trees, and many other trees that might be mentioned. These trees are widely scattered all over the county both in state forests and in privately-owned woodlands. Shrubs, vines, grasses, and ferns abound in great numbers as well as plants like the dogwood, the redbuds, hawthorns, viburnums, the different kinds of evergreens, mountain laurel, rhododendron, honeysuckle, huckleberry, sumach, elderberry, and many others.

Among the wild animals may be mentioned the grouse, the ringnecks, rabbit, squirrel, quail, wild turkey, deer, bear, raccoon, opossum, fox, groundhog, and skunk. It is reported that a herd of bison roamed over this region until it was exterminated in the Kettle Gap about ten miles from Troxelville fire tower.

CHAPTER 3

The Formation of the County as a Political Unit

Great political questions stir the deepest nature of one-half of the people, but they pass far above and over the heads of the other half.

Wendell Phillips

The most important events in the history of Snyder County were its separation from Union County and the circumstances that immediately followed the separation. Snyder County took its place among the counties of Pennsylvania in 1855. It was organized at a time when the movement for the formation of new counties in Pennsylvania had practically reached its end. Only two more counties were formed after Snyder, Cameron in 1860 and Lackawanna in 1878. The formation of many counties in the Province of Pennsylvania was a thing to be expected. The original counties were so large that divisions and subdivisions became the inevitable. With more and better means of transportation and communication, the usual arguments for the need of smaller counties were no longer applicable. In consequence, with the following years, public sentiment seemed to favor the plan of uniting counties rather than approving further division of counties into new counties.

The constitutions of 1776 and 1790 were strangely silent about the formation of new counties. An amendment in 1857 to the Constitution of 1838 placed certain definite restrictions upon the organization of new counties, and the constitution of 1873 added still further restrictions. The constitution of 1838 stated that "no county shall be divided by a line cutting off over one-tenth of its population either to form a new county or otherwise, without the assent of the electors, nor shall any new county be established containing less than 400 square miles". The constitution of 1873 states that "no new county shall be established which shall reduce any county less than 400 square miles or less than 20,000 inhabitants, nor shall any county be formed of less area or containing less population; nor shall any line thereof pass within ten miles of the county seat of any county proposed to be divided". Undoubtedly such constitutional restrictions were considered necessary to keep the formation of new counties within bounds. These restrictions evidently had their desired effects. Prior to 1790, the Commonwealth was composed of three

original counties and eighteen additional counties; under the constitution of 1790, thirty-two counties were formed; under the constitution of 1838, there were formed twelve counties, one of them being Snyder County; and under the constitution of 1873, only one county was organized that being Luzerne County in 1878. When the 1857 constitutional amendment placed definite restrictions upon the formation of new counties, only two more counties were added.

The Relationship Of Snyder County To The Three Original Counties Of Pennsylvania

The three original counties of the Province, Philadelphia, Chester, and Bucks, were laid out in 1682. The territory of these three original counties cannot be identified with the territory of the present counties of the same name, and their boundary lines were not at all well-defined. Their areas were very much larger. Roughly speaking, Philadelphia County embraced what is today known as the counties of Philadelphia and Montgomery; Chester County embraced the present counties of Chester and Delaware; and Bucks County embraced the present Counties of Bucks and Northampton. It appears historically worthwhile to trace the origin of Snyder County back to these three original counties of the Province. The story of how these three original counties, with additions and divisions, ultimately grew and developed into sixty-seven counties is an interesting one. Many spirited contests were found necessary before the work was completed.

While the relationship of Snyder County to the three original counties is indirect, still the connection is comparatively simple and can be readily traced and easily understood. A few simple statements will cover the essential facts. Snyder County was taken from Union County in 1855; Union County was taken from Northumberland County in 1813; and Northumberland County was taken from the counties of Lancaster, Cumberland, Bedford, Berks, and Northampton, in 1772. In 1768 the territory now generally known as Snyder County was called Penn Township, Cumberland County. Northumberland County originally consisted of seven townships called Penn, Augusta, Turbot, Buffalo, Bald Eagle, Muncy, and Wyoming. The five counties from which Northumberland County was formed can readily be traced back to the three original counties. Lancaster County was taken

from Chester County in 1729; Cumberland County was taken from Lancaster County in 1750; Bedford County was taken from Cumberland County in 1771; Berks County was taken from Philadelphia, Bucks, and Lancaster Counties in 1752; and Northampton County was taken from Bucks County in the same year. Prior to 1772 a goodly portion of what is now known as Snyder County, consisting of Selinsgrove and vicinity, was a part of Penn Township, Cumberland County, with Carlisle as the county-seat; another portion was a part of Berks County, with Reading as the capital. The boundary line between Cumberland and Berks ran diagonally through what is now known as Penn Township.

The Organization of Northumberland County

The Act of Assembly to erect Northumberland County out of portions of Lancaster, Cumberland, Bedford, Berks, and Northampton Counties, was passed, March 24, 1772. The county was quite different at that time in shape and extent of territory from what it is today. The county embraced practically the entire valleys of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River. Northumberland County was the tenth county in Pennsylvania in time of formation, and received the name Northumberland after an English shire. The county extended westward to the Allegheny River, northward to the New York boundary line, eastward to the upper tributaries of the Lehigh River, and southward to the Mahantango Creek. This vast area comprised the present counties of Pike, Wayne, Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga, Potter, McKean, Forest, Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming, Sullivan, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union, Snyder, Center, Clearfield, Jefferson, and portions of Warren, Venango, Clarion, Armstrong, Indiana, Huntingdon, Mifflin, and Juniata Counties. This was a portion of the territory purchased by Thomas and Richard Penn from the Six Nations in 1768. The reader needs to remind himself again that the areas of these seven townships must not be confused with the areas of the townships by the same name at the present day. For example, Buffalo Township (now in Union County) contained at the time all of what is now known as Union County, all of Snyder County north of the Penn's Creek as well as parts of the present counties of Lycoming, Centre, and Clinton.

The seven townships into which Northumberland County was originally divided, April 9, 1772, have no special interest for our purpose with the exception of Penn Township. This township at that time:

Began at the mouth of the Mahantango Creek on the west side of the Susquehanna River; thence with the county line up Mahantango Creek to Mateer's Spring; thence with the same line to the top of Tussey's Mountain; thence along the top of Tussey's Mountain easterly to Penn's Creek and down Penn's Creek to the mouth thereof at the head of the Isle of Que; thence down the Susquehanna to the place of beginning.

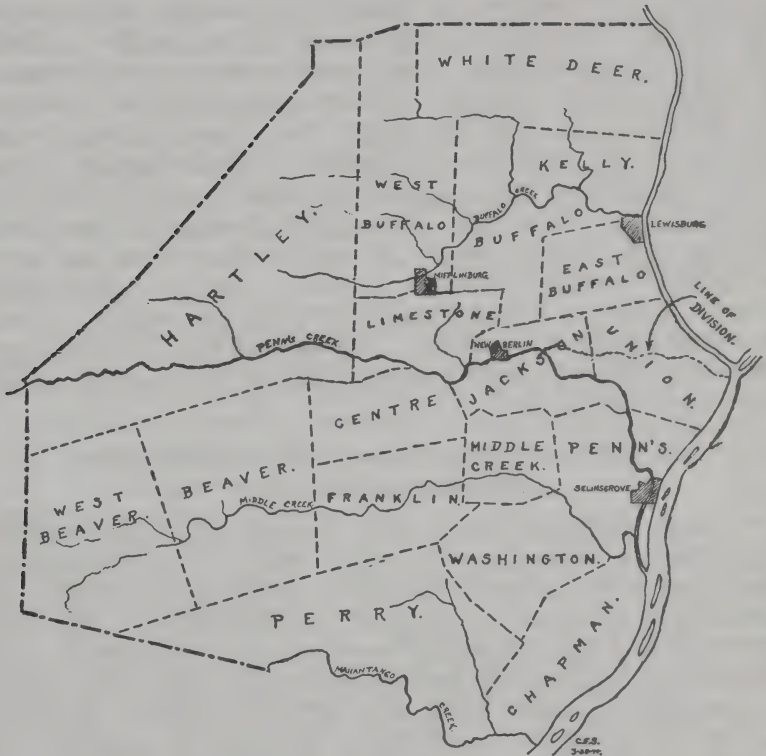
The reader can readily discern that with the exception of the northern section, the territory of Penn Township in 1772 was practically the same as the entire county today.

Such a large area of land, as Northumberland County was originally constituted, was destined in course of time to be broken up into smaller counties. This is precisely what happened so that by the opening of the nineteenth century, the territory of Northumberland County embraced only what is now known as the counties of Union, Snyder, Montour, Columbia, and the present Northumberland County. Even with such a greatly reduced area, it becomes perfectly obvious that such a large county with but one county-seat (Sunbury) proved unwieldy and unsatisfactory to the people of the outlying areas. They began to discuss the expenses and the distances in traveling to the county-seat, the cost of ferrying across the river to reach the county-seat at Sunbury, the additional costs likely to be incurred by the proposed erection of certain buildings for the housing of the county offices, and the advantages of a county-seat and town-market nearer home. These discussions led to the formation of Union and Columbia Counties out of Northumberland County in 1813; Montour County out of Columbia County in 1850; and Snyder County out of Union County in 1855. This account now leaves Northumberland County in shape and area as it is at the present day.

The Erection of Union County Out of Northumberland County

In 1811, petitions were circulated in the territory of Northumberland County west of the Susquehanna River and of the West Branch, requesting the Pennsylvania legislature to grant the organization of a separate county out of that portion of Northumberland County. About 800 signatures were attached. For some reason or other,

the legislature did not act on the petition at the time. Later on, additional petitions were forwarded to the legislature. The upshot of the whole matter was that on March 22, 1813, a law was enacted providing for the formation of Union County. The county courts were to be held at such a place as chosen by the county commissioners until a courthouse could be erected. The governor was to appoint "three discreet and disinterested persons



Map of the Division of Old Union County

not resident in the county of Northumberland or Union" to choose a county seat as near the center as deemed expedient. The town of New Berlin was selected as the county seat, and steps were immediately taken to erect a courthouse and jail. In the meantime, however, the county officials such as the sheriff, the prothonotary, the courts, the clerks of the courts, the register and recorder, the district attorney, coroner, and the county commissioners, conducted the business of the county at

Mifflinburg in a one-story log building until May, 1815, when the necessary buildings were completed at the new county seat. The prisoners of the county were kept in jail in Sunbury until the completion of the jail at New Berlin in 1817. New Berlin continued as the county seat until 1855 when Lewisburg was made the county seat.

The Division of Union County*

About forty years after the formation of Union County in 1813, a movement to divide the county had gained tremendous strength among many of the people. From the standpoint of area, there really was no good reason to divide Union County. There are thirty-six counties in Pennsylvania that are larger than the original Union County, and only three counties — Philadelphia, Delaware, and Montour — that are smaller than either Union or Snyder. Lycoming, the largest county in the state, having 1215 square miles, is nearly four times as large as Snyder County (329 square miles); and also about four times the size of Union County (318 square miles). From the standpoint of location, the county-seat of New Berlin was centrally located in the county and readily accessible from all parts.

Conditions That Brought About Division The Railroad Situation

Many railroads were built during the three decades immediately preceding the Civil War. This expansion was a part of a great industrial movement that swept the country. In order to promote the building of railroads, counties and municipalities were legally privileged to subscribe to railroad stock by means of bond issues that didn't need to be approved by a vote of the citizens. In other words, a county's credit could be used to promote the building of a railroad presumably within its own territory. The Susquehanna Railroad Company had been incorporated in 1851 with power to build a railroad connecting with the York and Cumberland Railroad, or with the Pennsylvania Railroad, on either side of the Susquehanna River or the Juniata River, and extending to Sunbury and Williamsport.

In the early days of railroad construction, it is easy to see that the competition must have been keen among the existing railroads, and this competition was enhanced

*C Warren Gutelius, The Division of a County (1853-1855)

when any railroad company proposed to build additional roads. The Sunbury and Erie Railroad desired to build a road on the west side of the river from Sunbury to Williamsport but the community lent its influence and support to the Susquehanna Railroad of Baltimore. This brought about a sharp controversy that played a part in the division of the county. Since the northern portion of the county favored the Sunbury and Erie Railroad on the west side from Sunbury through Lewisburg, the southern portion of the county wanted the Susquehanna Railroad to cross the river at the Trevorton Bridge and come northward from that point on the west side of the river. The opposition to the Susquehanna Railroad on the west side of the river from Port Trevorton was based upon the bad effect it would have on traffic of the Pennsylvania Canal. With the cooperative support of Northumberland County and Sunbury, the railroad was finally built on the east side from the Trevorton Bridge to Sunbury.

An open breach resulted when the Union County Commissioners, George Heimbach, Simon K. Herrold, and Adam Sechler, bought railroad stock in the name of the county to the extent of \$200,000 in the Susquehanna Railroad Company upon the condition that the road would be built on the west side of the Susquehanna River. This large subscription by the county commissioners caused much public criticism, and finally led to an indignation meeting at New Berlin. This meeting is reported to have been the largest meeting of its kind in attendance ever held in the town. On the other hand, there were many people sympathetic to the purchase but felt it should not have been undertaken without first getting the consent of the voters. To the utter surprise of the opponents of the bond issue, the friends of the movement likewise assembled in large numbers at the meeting in defense of the subscription. After much heated discussion, the meeting adopted a resolution approving the action of the county commissioners. Many of the more enterprising leaders began to entertain the thought of building a railroad through Dry Valley and New Berlin, connecting the proposed Susquehanna River Railroad at Winfield with the Central Railroad at Lewistown. The Lewisburg people began to think in terms of a proposal to build a railroad through Buffalo Valley, while the Selinsgrove people became interested in a branch road connecting the

Susquehanna River Railroad at Selinsgrove with Lewis-town. The whole railroad situation engendered much competition and ill-feeling and ultimately proved to be the precipitating cause of the movement for the division of the county. Ultimately, the railroad issue no longer figured in the case. In December, 1854, the Susquehanna River Railroad Company merged with two other railroad companies under the name of the North Central Railroad to build a railroad from Baltimore to Sunbury. One of the conditions of the merger on the part of the Susquehanna River Railroad was that the \$200,000 bonds should be returned to the Union County Commissioners, and with this agreement the issue was closed.

The Proposal For A New Courthouse At New Berlin

The state of affairs in the county was further irritated by the movement to erect a new courthouse in New Berlin. Several successive grand juries had favored re-building or improving the old courthouse. After the December term of Court, the county commissioners began to take the necessary steps to carry out the recommendations of the grand jury. Just then the people of New Berlin petitioned the grand jury to recommend to the County Commissioners the erection of an entirely new courthouse instead of simply repairing the old one. The jury, however, refused to make such recommendations. The efforts to induce the grand jury to authorize the construction of a new building at the expense of the taxpayers of the county caused a storm of protest to sweep over various sections of the county. It must be recalled that the location of the county-seat originally at New Berlin had not been an entirely popular selection. Now when the petition was filed to replace the old courthouse with a new one, the smoldering fires of discontentment burst into flame. The opposition took the form of an agitation for the division of the county. In fact, certain areas threatened to secede and to organize a county of their own if a new courthouse would be constructed. The proposal by the New Berlin people simply opened up old bitter feelings, taking the form that there was too much taxation already and the distance to the county-seat too great. It thereby urged the immediate enactment of a law for the division of the county. Popular feelings expressed themselves in the nature of protest meetings condemning the petition for a new courthouse, and proposing the division of the county. Editorials in newspapers advised the di-

vision for the sake of peace. The people of New Berlin were accused of wanting a new courthouse primarily to further their own selfish interests, to assure themselves that their town would continue permanently as the county-seat, and to put an end to all further movements for the division of the county. Some opponents even made bold to declare that if New Berlin wanted a new courthouse, the people there should raise the necessary money from among themselves for that purpose as other towns had done and not ask the people of the whole county to be taxed for their own local benefit.

It is highly probable that had there been no agitation for a new courthouse or had the New Berlin people voluntarily agreed among themselves to subscribe generously toward the erection of the proposed new courthouse, the movement for division would not have become formidable at the time, and perhaps not for many years to come or never.

Jealous Rivalries Among Towns For The County-Seat

The jealous rivalries among some of the larger towns of the county proved fertile soil for the origin and growth of the movement for division. These towns were naturally very ambitious. They wanted to become larger, better, and more influential towns, and to become the county-seat would aid that much more in satisfying their ambitions. Lewisburg had the desire to become the county-seat of the northern part; Selinsgrove supported the movement for division in the hope of becoming the county-seat of the southern part; and New Berlin was opposed to the division for fear of losing the county-seat. The petition of the New Berlin people to the grand jury provided the needed material for both Lewisburg and Selinsgrove to press their aspirations.

The Campaign For The Division of The County

Petitions in behalf of division began to be circulated in all parts of the county. Public meetings were held to ascertain the opinion of the people relative to the building of a new courthouse and to the division of the county. The first meeting with the idea of separation was held at Freeburg, February 28, 1853. This meeting was followed by other meetings in Perry Township, Penn Township, and Washington Township. Petitions containing the names of 2130 persons were presented to the State Legislature praying for a division of Union County. More

than two-thirds of the names came from the southern part of the county, while petitions containing the names of 1846 persons were drawn up in opposition to the movement. At different times many different petitions relative to division were sent to Harrisburg. On the basis of these petitions, a bill was introduced into the State Legislature, in March, 1853, by Colonel Eli Slifer of Lewisburg, who was the State Senator from the Senatorial District comprising Union, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties. The bill recommended separation and suggested that the northern part be called Union and the southern part Snyder after the Governor. This bill, however, was introduced so late in the session that it failed to receive adequate consideration. In October, 1853, at the suggestion of Senator Slifer and by the recommendation of both the Whig and the Democratic County Conventions, it was arranged to have a test vote taken on the question of division. The results of the election indicated 1649 votes in favor of division and 1830 votes against it, and the question of division was lost by a plurality of 181 votes. The Railroad problem was still implicated in the campaign issue and undoubtedly helped to confuse the real question in the minds of the voters.

This defeat didn't silence the party in favor of division, and petitions for separation were again circulated and laid before the legislature. More than 3,000 signatures were secured in favor of division but they failed to accomplish their purpose. A memorial was then prepared and presented to the legislature in March, 1854, to the effect that the county is naturally divided into two parts by the Blue Hill, Penn's Creek, and Jacks Mountain, and would therefore form two conveniently-sized counties, and that from the standpoint of voting precincts, separation would prove advantageous. The Susquehanna River bordering the eastern portion of the county would be the natural outlet for the commerce and trade of the valleys of each portion. This bill was unanimously passed by the Senate on March 21, 1854, but failed to pass in the House because of the opposition of Major John W. Simonton, Representative of Union County. In the fall of that year the proposed division of the county proved to be an important issue in the election of candidates for office, and the party in favor of division turned out to be the winner. Petitions containing the names of more than 3,000 voters favoring division were once more presented

to the legislature in January, 1855. A bill was introduced by Dr. James W. Crawford, Representative of Juniata County, for the division of the county. This bill was passed by both houses of the legislature, and received the signature of Governor James Pollock, March 2, 1855.

This act to form a new county out of Union County to be called Snyder designated that "all that territory now in Union County lying south of the line commencing at the Northumberland Bridge; thence by the New Berlin mail route to Penn's Creek at a point about one-fourth mile above Mowrer's mill where said creek turns suddenly towards the south; thence across Penn's Creek along the southern bank to its nearest contact with the summit of Jacks Mountain to the western line of Union County, shall be and the same is hereby erected into a new county to be called Snyder". It was agreed that the provisions of this act of division, according to section twenty-nine should not go into effect unless ratified by a majority of the voters of the county. This election was held March 16, 1855, and resulted in 2,553 votes in favor of division and 2,508 votes against it, division winning by the small plurality of forty-five votes. At the time of the division there were ten townships and one borough in the territory that comprised Snyder County. The townships of Monroe, West Perry, Union, Adams, and Spring were not yet in existence.

Election Returns of Test Vote on the Question of Division of the County and Bond Issue, Held October, 1853

Northern Part of County	For Division	Against Division	Anti-bond	Bond
Lewisburg	337	1	—	—
East Buffalo Township	108	3	—	—
Kelly Township	85	14	—	—
Buffalo Township	85	85	—	—
Hartley Township	56	73	80	3
Mifflinburg	54	61	81	00
White Deer Township	36	79	—	—
West Buffalo Township	38	79	94	1
Limestone Township	1	137	122	00
Union Township	27	190	173	00
New Berlin	00	138	131	1
Total	827	860	681	5

Southern Part of County	For Division	Against Division	Anti-bond	Bond
Penn Township	348	82	259	1
Chapman Township	180	16	—	—
Washington Township	141	39	106	0
Perry Township	106	25	111	0
Center Township	45	119	125	0
Centerville (Penns Creek)	00	139	120	0
Middlecreek Township	1	110	115	0
West Beaver Township	1	183	185	0
Beaver Township	0	257	246	0
Total	822	970	1267	1
GRAND TOTAL	1649	1830	1948	6

This test vote showed that the people did not favor division in 1853. That the people were much opposed to a bond issue is evidenced by the fact that 1948 votes were cast against it and only six votes in favor of it.

Election Returns on the Question of Division of County Election Held March 16, 1855

Voting Districts (upper area of county)	For Division	Against Division
Lewisburg	485	1
Mifflinburg	69	92
New Berlin	2	143
Buffalo Township	189	84
East Buffalo Township	175	4
West Buffalo Township	114	62
Hartley Township	152	191
Kelly Township	143	22
Limestone Township	6	121
White Deer Township	254	21
Union Township	48	122
Total	1637	863

Voting Districts (lower area of county)	For Division	Against Division
Selinsgrove	258	5
Washington Township	145	81
Chapman Township	220	92
Franklin Township	11	216
Beaver Township	00	316
Jackson Township	4	159
Penn Township	207	130
Middlecreek Township	3	115

Perry Township	68	116
Center Township	00	186
West Beaver Township	00	229
Total	916	1645
GRAND TOTAL OF THE		
ENTIRE COUNTY	2553	2508

Just why there were so many more signatures on the petitions favoring division than there were votes cast in favor of division at the election is difficult to tell. James Bryce in "The American Commonwealth" says that "the obvious weakness of government by opinion is the difficulty of ascertaining it". Undoubtedly neither the numerous petitions nor the election returns adequately and accurately revealed the will of the electorate on the issue. Although efforts were made to repeal the division law because the election returns did not appear to be sufficiently representative of public opinion, the law of 1855 remained on the statute books. Union County was now divided and, in the main, the part lying south of Penn's Creek and the Jacks Mountain was called Snyder and the part lying north retained the original name of Union. It had been originally proposed at various times to have the southern part retain the name of Union and the northern part to be known as Buffalo but there was so much opposition to the proposal that it was finally abandoned.

An analytic study of the vote on county division by districts reveals some significant information. It was the divisionists of the northern portion of Union County who made division possible and not those of the southern part as one would ordinarily expect. The total number of votes cast against division in the districts that were to make up the new county was 1645, and the total number of votes for division was 916 or a plurality of 729 votes against division. The total number of votes cast against division in the districts now known as Union County was 863 and the total number of votes for division was 1637 or a plurality of 774 votes for division. This means that the divisionists in the northern part of the county won the county contest over the anti-divisionists of the southern part by a plurality of forty-five votes.

On April 11, 1856, a supplement to the act providing for the erection of the new county was passed by the State Legislature "to transfer the unfinished business properly belonging to Snyder County remaining in Union County, such as letters of administration and letters

testamentary, guardian appointments, road and townships matters, all entered taxes whether upon seated or unseated lands, and that the courts of Snyder County shall have jurisdiction to carry out, complete, try or enforce all said matters the same as if they had been commenced in Snyder County”.

The Contest For The County-Seat

When a new county is organized, one of the first questions to be decided is the location of the county-seat. The executive, legislative, and judicial powers of a county as a political unit need to become geographically centralized. The selection of the county-seat may be brought about by one of at least three different ways. (1) The seat of justice may be designated in the act of the legislature providing for the organization of the new county. (2) The seat of justice may be selected by a commission of disinterested persons. When Union County was formed out of Northumberland County, March 22, 1813, the act of the legislature stated that the governor “shall appoint three discreet and disinterested persons not resident in the counties of Northumberland and Union whose duty it shall be to fix upon a proper and convenient site for a court-house, prison and county offices as near to the center as circumstances will admit having regard to territory, population, and the accommodation of the people of the county generally”. Such a method for selecting the county-seat quite naturally led to much controversy but the town of New Berlin was finally chosen, and the necessary steps were immediately taken to erect a court-house, jail, and other necessary public buildings at that place. Christopher Seebold gave the ground free for the court-house, the county offices, and the jail. He also contributed \$200 towards the building fund raised entirely by the people of New Berlin and vicinity. (Union Times, April 7, 1853). The committee appointed by the governor to make the choice of the county-seat were James Banks of Mifflin County, Henry Haines of Lancaster County, and Edward Darlington of Chester County. (3) By a general election of the voters, an act of legislature enacted March 2, 1855 to form a new county out of Union, to be called Snyder, states that the seat of justice is to be determined at a general election of the voters, and the place in each county of Union and Snyder having the largest number of votes shall be the seat of justice. Here, then, there was no alternative. In consequence, the choice of the voters was Middleburg for

Snyder County and Lewisburg for Union County. The contest was a spirited one. Lewisburg received 1436 votes and Mifflinburg 1226. The former thereby won by a plurality of 210 votes. Let us now turn to the contest in Snyder County.

The selection of Middleburg as the county-seat of Snyder County, however, was made without even much more of a contest. Sections three and four of the Act of Assembly of March 2, 1855, provided that "suitable grounds and buildings and a jail for county purposes shall be secured for Snyder County without any cost or tax whatever being imposed upon the taxables of the said county for such expenditures". In order to make this provision possible, there had to be pledged by subscriptions an amount not less than \$10,000 from within the limits of the new county. In other words, any town within the county that would furnish a guaranteed subscription of at least this amount to provide for the necessary grounds and buildings would qualify as a candidate for the county-seat. The law provided that the choice of a county-seat should be made by a vote of the people from among those towns that could qualify. The towns of Middleburg, Freeburg, and Selinsgrove furnished the necessary subscription approved by the court and thus became the competitors for the county-seat. In the election that followed, Middleburg received 1357 votes; Freeburg received 208 votes; and Selinsgrove received 922 votes. Middleburg then became the county-seat of Snyder County.

As in the case of old Union County the selection of New Berlin as the county-seat, there was considerable dissatisfaction with the location of the county-seat at Middleburg, with the kind and conditions of the buildings that had been erected, with the unsafe condition of the court-house, and with the rooms for the public records which were not considered fire-proof. In fact the grand jury at the February 1865, term of court reported the court-house unsafe, the public records insecure, and the buildings not worth repairing. It seems strange that all this trouble developed within the short period of ten years after the formation of the county.

Consequently just ten years after the formation of the county, an act was passed by the state legislature and signed by Governor Andrew G. Curtin, April 22, 1865, to transfer the county-seat from Middleburg to Selinsgrove.

The act designated William F. Eckbert, William F. Wagenseller, and Lewis R. Hummel as a board of commissioners to select in the borough of Selinsgrove suitable grounds on which to erect the necessary county buildings without expense to the county. Subscriptions were to be received to the amount of not less than \$5,000, approved by the court, for the erection of such buildings. The law provided that as soon as the land and subscriptions were secured, "then the County Commissioners shall proceed without unnecessary delay to erect all the necessary buildings, such buildings to be of stone or brick with fire-proof roof and fire-proof rooms for the records, and upon their satisfactory completion and approval by the Grand Jury and Court, the county-seat of Snyder shall be fixed and located in the borough of Selinsgrove". The county commissioners were authorized to borrow up to \$20,000 for building purposes, and to issue bonds in sums of not less than \$100 at an interest rate not in excess of six per cent; the bonds were to mature in one, two, and three years. The county property in Middleburg was to be returned to those persons who had originally subscribed the money for their payment.

Such legislation, however, proved entirely too hasty and too revolutionary for the conservative German population of the county. The County Commissioners, A. K. Middleswarth, William Snook, and Joseph Wenrich, refused to accept and to carry out the provisions of the act. They declared the legislative action was taken without due notice being given to the general public and against the will of the majority of the people as expressed at the ballot box in 1855 fixing the county-seat at Middleburg. They protested also on the grounds that the people were then engaged in a great war and were already burdened with taxes, and that the court-house was still in good condition. The result was that a majority of the county commissioners, A. K. Middleswarth and William Snook, refused to carry out the provisions of the act by refusing to receive any deed or subscriptions as provided by the law to erect the proper buildings in Selinsgrove. John App had offered to donate six lots near the Missionary Institute building for a site for these public buildings. The County Commissioners wished to make the proper estimates of the costs first and to levy taxes for such purposes later on in the usual way. The county commissioners received much moral support from the anti-removal meetings held at

Middleburg. They evidently didn't want the law removing the county-seat from Middleburg to Selinsgrove obeyed.

Editor Franklin Weirick of the Selinsgrove Times commented on the advantages of Selinsgrove as the county-seat with respect to its location on the Susquehanna River, the Pennsylvania Canal, its railroad and telegraph advantages, and its being the largest town in the county and the market for county grains and cattle. The nature and intent of the law evoked much discussion. Petitions with many signatures demanded a mass meeting to have the obnoxious law repealed. The opposition was based largely on the estimate that the erection of the necessary public buildings would cost at least \$100,000 while the proponents felt certain that all the necessary buildings would not cost in excess of \$40,000. Anti-removal indignation meetings were held for the purpose of sustaining the majority vote of the county commissioners against removal. A parade with a band was held in Middleburg, with 560 persons in the parade, largely composed of people from the western end of the county. Addresses were made of a rather violent nature. Resolutions were adopted endorsing the course of the two county commissioners.

The upshot of the whole unfortunate affair resulted in mandamus proceedings in the county court against the county commissioners for neglect of duty and failure to obey the law. An adjourned session of the court was held in June at Middleburg for the purpose of disposing of the writ of mandamus issued against the two refractory commissioners in regard to the county-seat controversy. The court did not take any action since the defendants moved to have the writ quashed and asked for time to prepare their arguments. The court convened in July to hear the arguments. The commissioners finally decided to go to Selinsgrove to view the grounds proposed for the erection of the new county buildings. They also went to Lewisburg to inspect the court-house there with the idea of erecting similar court-house in Selinsgrove. In line with the instructions of the Court, the plans and specifications for the public buildings were at last drawn up and the proposal made to borrow the necessary \$20,000 and to receive bids for the erection of the court-house, jail, and county offices, but the procedure never received the unqualified approval in all of its details of the majority of the county commissioners.

This lack of united effort by the commissioners, the requisite amount of money not subscribed until November

11, 1865, the usual delays in judicial procedures, and much dissatisfaction throughout the county with the trend of events made impossible the beginning of the building operations until too late in the season. The contract for the building of the court-house and jail, however, had been let to Philip Swineford but he failed to furnish the necessary bail. Then the contract was awarded to Isaac Beaver for \$42,800, but the minority member of the board, Joseph Wenrich, refused to sign the agreement. The two commissioners, A. K. Middleswarth and William Snook, decided to go ahead with the contract, for we read in the minutes of the county commissioners for March 13, 1866, that the first payment on the contract to erect the new county buildings at Selinsgrove was made.

Such was the state of affairs in the county during the closing days of 1865 and in the first few months of the year 1866. When the state legislature convened again, another bill was introduced stating that the act of Assembly of April 22, 1865, to remove the county-seat from Middleburg to Selinsgrove, was hastily passed without the knowledge of and against the will of the people. The bill provided for an election to be held for the qualified voters of the county, April 24, 1866, to decide for or against the removal of the county seat from Middleburg to Selinsgrove, and if the majority of the votes polled should be against removal, then it was to be considered unlawful for the county commissioners to proceed and erect buildings at Selinsgrove as required by the Act of the Assembly of April 22, 1865. This bill was passed by both houses and received the signature of Governor Andrew G. Curtin, March 21, 1866.

The outcome of the election of April 24, 1866, was 1404 votes for removal and 1757 votes against removal of the county-seat, thereby defeating the issue by a plurality of 353 votes. At this time there were eleven townships and two boroughs in the county. The election returns are tabulated below according to the location of the districts to show that the sentiment was largely determined by the accessibility and proximity of the several townships and boroughs to the county-seat.

Election Returns For Location Of The County-Seat (1866)

DISTRICTS	For Removal	Against Removal
1. West Beaver Township	—	244
2. Center Township	—	182

3.	Franklin Township	—	200
4.	Middleburg Borough	1	81
5.	Perry Township	28	151
6.	West Perry Township	27	85
7.	Washington Township	99	184
8.	Middlecreek Township	63	73
9.	Jackson Township	34	114
10.	Penn Township	275	5
11.	Chapman Township	317	71
12.	Monroe Township	215	20
13.	Selinsgrove Borough	343	1
TOTALS		1404	1757

The First Court-House

The first county courthouse and jail were built about the same time, during the years 1855 and 1856. The original jail was located on Market Street, Middleburg, on a lot west of the United Brethren Church of today; the original court house was located on the site of the present court house. The Act of Assembly of March 2, 1855, provided that the subscribers of the \$10,000 designated to purchase grounds and to erect county buildings thereon, were to select three persons to constitute a building committee, each subscriber to have one vote for every ten dollars subscribed toward the building fund, and this building committee was to proceed to secure the grounds and to erect the necessary county buildings. This building committee consisted of George Motz, George J. Schoch, and John L. Renninger.

The plans and specifications for the jail and court house were submitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and received approval, and immediately the work of constructing them was begun. At the December term of court in the year 1856, the committee reported that the work was completed, and the Grand Jury, December 12, 1856, recommended their acceptance. On February 28, 1857, the Judges A. S. Wilson and Daniel Witmer of the court accepted the sites and the buildings.

The first County Commissioners of Snyder County were John D. Romig (1 yr.), Isaac D. Boyer (2 yrs.), and George D. Miller (3 yrs.). They decided by lot which one was to serve one year, two years, and three years. The organization of the board was effected, December, 1855. They leased the United Brethren church for a court chamber until the new court house was completed;

the houses of Jacob Aurand and Jacob Fryer were leased for the offices of the County Commissioners, Sheriff, and County Treasurer; the house of John L. Renninger was leased for the Prothonotary's office; the house of Hiram



Snyder County Court House

as erected in 1855

Swenk was leased for the use of the Petit and Traverse Juries; and the Public School house was leased for the use of the Grand Jury. A rent of twelve dollars was paid for the use of the church and six dollars for each of the private houses until the courthouse was completed. The jail in New Berlin was used in common by Union and Snyder counties until the new jail was ready for use.

Sale Of County Property At New Berlin

Upon the removal of the county seat from New Berlin to Lewisburg and the formation of Snyder County, an act was passed by the State Legislature, April 18, 1857, providing for three commissioners, Hon. Ner Middle-swarth, Col. Henry E. Eyer of Snyder County, and John V. Barber of Union County, to sell the courthouse, the jail, and other county property situated in the borough of New Berlin, which belonged to Union County, prior to the erection of Snyder County out of Union County. The property was to be sold for the highest and best price that could be obtained, and after costs of advertising and other expenses of sale were deducted, the balance of the money was to be divided equally between the two counties, and paid to the treasurers of the two counties. There appears to have been some delay in having this agreement carried out, for the minutes of the County Commissioners state that the Snyder County Commissioners met the Union County Commissioners at New Berlin, November 30, 1855, to remind the newly elected commissioners of Union County that Snyder County claimed one-half of all the personal property in the public buildings in New Berlin for the use of Snyder County.

The courthouse was bought by the school directors of the borough and converted into a school building in 1860. Adjacent to the courthouse stood a long, two-storied brick building known as the "State House". On the first floor of this building were the offices of the prothonotary, register and recorder, County Commissioners, and the County Treasurer. On the second floor were the grand and petit jury rooms. This building was sold to a private party and converted into a dwelling house. The jail was likewise sold to a private citizen and converted into a dwelling house.

The New Courthouse At Middleburg

When the general election of April 24, 1866, made it evident that the majority of the voters of the county favored Middleburg as the permanent county-seat, and due to the report of the grand jury on the condition of both the courthouse and jail in September, 1866, the first steps were taken to make calculations of the amount of materials needed and the costs to repair and to make additions to the courthouse. In estimating the probable expenses the decision was reached that the cost would be about \$10,000. There were no bids received and no

awarding of contracts for this work as would be required by the law at the present day. The County Commissioners simply employed the men and bought the materials; hence this repair work required a great deal of time and attention on the part of these officials. William Haines did the carpenter work; Philip Spaid, the masonry; Daniel Rhoads, the roofing; and James Shannon, the plastering. The courthouse was enlarged by the addition of twelve feet to the front and twenty-seven feet to the rear. The commissioners also provided new furnishings for the courthouse. The total expenses for the county for the year 1867 were \$18,299.60 of which \$10,929.68 were used to remodel, repair, and to enlarge the courthouse.

The courthouse as enlarged, remodelled, refitted, and arranged, remained substantially the same until 1915 when remodeling, enlarging, and repairing again were found necessary. In that year the Judges of the Courts were President Judge, Albert W. Johnson, and Associate Judges J. R. Hendricks and J. Frank Keller. The County Commissioners were Adam Aucker, B. Frank Rau, and Adam Shemorry. There was likewise a citizens' Committee to cooperate and to work with the Court and the County Commissioners as an advisory Committee in the work of remodeling and repairing. The members of this committee were President Charles T. Aikens, M. L. Hassinger, Alvin Ulsh, J. Howard Arbogast, Guy Leonard, J. G. Weiser, D. Norman App, Thomas Sauers, and William K. Miller. The grand jury then recommended an addition of twenty feet to the rear of the courthouse, the erection of a new front, certain changes in the interior, and the construction of fire-proof vaults. In fact so many alterations were made that the courthouse was practically rebuilt. Plans and specifications were submitted by John F. Stetler, architect, and adopted by the County Commissioners. Two successive grand juries and the court approved the proposed improvements together with an appropriation of \$18,000 for them. The commissioners made arrangements immediately for advertising for bids for these proposed improvements. Bids were received, May 22, 1915, and contracts were awarded to R. F. Goy for \$13,333 for building; to Lindermuth Engineering Company for \$2,503.50 for plumbing and heating; and to Howard Wiest for \$265 for wiring. The total contract price was \$16,101.50. The tower clock in the courthouse is the gift of the Hon. G. Alfred Schoch, a banker and business man of Middleburg and a former

representative of the county in the General Assembly. The present bell in the tower was purchased by the County Commissioners in 1858 for the first courthouse, and has been in use ever since. It weighs 524 pounds, and was cast by the Meneely Foundry of Troy, New York. John F. Stetler was appointed the supervising architect at a commission of five per cent on the total contract price to cover the cost of the plans and specifications, and the supervising of the total project. Bonds were sold to cover the expenses up to \$10,000. During the period of improvement of the courthouse the offices of the County Commissioners, the prothonotary, register and recorder, and other offices were located in the Central Hotel property on the corner of Sugar (Main) and Market Streets.

The Jail

The original jail, built in the years 1855-1856, continued in use until 1886 when it appeared no longer to serve the needs of the times. It was located on Market St., on a lot west of the present United Brethren Church. The building still stands and is used as a private dwelling. The front part of it is brick and the rear of stone. This building served its purpose for about thirty years. During its latter years so many prisoners escaped that it was no longer considered worthy, and a new structure was deemed necessary. The Middleburg Post in an editorial for the issue of May 21, 1885, had the following to say with respect to a new jail for the county:

The question of a new jail for Snyder County will come before the Grand Jury for consideration at the regular term of the May Court next week, and in looking over the list, and weighing the materials that compose it, we have no cause to fear a hitch in the now fair prospects of such a needed improvement in our county. How any unprejudiced mind could fail to condemn the old rat-trap jail, is a question worthy the consideration of every fair-minded man. Crime, without law, is dead, and law, without the means of executing it is a mockery to justice. True, the county is not cursed with the keeping of many prisoners, but that much more to the credit of an honest, peaceable, and law-abiding people who are able and willing to maintain order by providing respectable means for executing its laws. The county has a surplus of means in its treasury sufficiently large to put up a respectable building, and have it paid for in full at the time of its completion. Then why stop to question the propriety of such a measure, when there is not a single impediment in the way and all the taxpayers who are "not penny-wise and pound-foolish" say "go-ahead".

One of the duties of the grand jury is to make an inspection of all county public buildings. This evidently

was done by the grand jury at the February and May Sessions of the county court in 1885. In its report to the court, the jury declared that it "found the jail unsuited for its purpose, insecure and out of repair, badly located, and recommended the erection of a new jail, better suited for its purposes, upon another and more suitable site, and the abandonment of the present site, the sale of the same, and the purchase of a new site". This report of the grand jury was approved by the court, May 26, 1885, and the county commissioners, James Mohn, James N. Houser, and Isaac Erdley, purchased a new site, for the proposed jail. The new site consisted of two lots, one lot was purchased from Thomas Bower and wife for \$800; and the other lot, an adjoining one, was purchased from Samuel Wittenmyer and wife for \$150. The county commissioners then formulated plans for the new jail, had them approved by the State Board of Charities, and received bids, January 19, 1886, for the erection of the new jail at Middleburg. In all, twenty-eight bids were received, two bids for the stone and brick work including the excavations; seven bids for the iron work; three bids for the plumbing and heating; four bids for the roofing and tin work; three bids for lumber, plastering, painting, carpenter work, and all other material and work necessary to complete the building; and nine bids for the entire building. The contracts were let, January 25, 1886, at a total cost of \$21,788.75.

The architect was John F. Stetler of Middleburg. Bonds were issued by the County Commissioners to finance the building operations. The First National Bank of Selinsgrove bought all the bonds issued to the amount of \$18,000 at four per cent interest. On September 30, 1886, the County Commissioners decided to build a stone wall around the jail grounds, and awarded the contract for it to Anthony McCawley. At the same meeting, they resolved to dispose of the old jail at a public sale, December 14, 1886. This property was bought by D. A. Kern for \$1,005. The contract for flag-stone for paving in front of the jail was awarded to Joel D. Benfer at fifteen dollars per one hundred square feet. The new jail is a two story building with twelve cells and comfortable dwelling apartments for the Sheriff. The office of the sheriff is in the county jail.

Proposed Joint County Poorhouse

The care of public property such as the courthouse, the poorhouse, county bridges, and the county jail, is entrusted to the county commissioners. In counties where

there wasn't any poorhouse, officials called the overseers of the poor in townships and boroughs, looked after the poor and the indigent by providing for them, or by making a contract with an adjoining county that had a poorhouse to take care of them.

There was some agitation as early as 1869 for the erection of a joint poorhouse for Union and Snyder Counties. It was contemplated having the representative in the General Assembly, William G. Herrold, introduce a bill into the state legislature for this particular purpose. The county commissioners, Joseph Wenrich, J. J. Matter, and I. S. Longacre were unanimously opposed to the movement, and so instructed the representative in the state legislature. The matter was then dropped and has never been revived again.

CHAPTER 4

The Formation of the Political Units of the County—Townships

The best of all governments is that which teaches us to govern ourselves.

Goethe

Townships are erected and towns are incorporated, occasionally by special acts of the legislature, but more frequently by decrees of the county courts. The most common procedure in the formation of a new township is for the citizens of the territory concerned to file a petition with the court requesting the formation of a new township. The court then appoints a board of viewers to investigate the soundness of the petition and to make recommendations. Sometimes when there appears to be some question with respect to the sentiment of the taxpayers of the areas concerned, the court orders a special election to determine the issue.

At the time of the formation of Snyder County in 1855, the townships of Penn (1758), Beaver (1787), Centre (1805), Perry (1816), Washington (1818), Chapman (1820), Middlecreek (1838), West Beaver (1843), Franklin (1853), and Jackson (1854), were already in existence. These ten townships had been erected by decrees of the courts of Northumberland and Union Counties. The five townships of Monroe (1856), West Perry (1858), Union (1869), Adams (1874), and Spring (1885) were formed by decrees of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Snyder County at Middleburg. Selinsgrove was the only town in the entire territory of Snyder County that had been incorporated into a borough. This town had first been incorporated in 1827 by a special act of the legislature but on account of so much opposition by the citizens of Penn Township, the act of incorporation was repealed the following year. Selinsgrove was incorporated a second time in 1853 by a decree of the Union County Court under the provisions of the general borough law, and has continued a borough to the present time.

A brief history of the formation of each township of the county, together with a brief account of the villages and unincorporated towns within the townships, will now be given. This information will be supplemented by such other information of the townships as may be considered important. This method seems desirable since slight vari-

ations in procedure in the organization of the townships make a mere generalization of the procedure for all of them inadequate and unsatisfactory. The townships will be taken up in the time sequence of their formation. A separate treatment will follow in the next chapter with respect to the five incorporated towns of the county as Selinsgrove (1853), Middleburg (1864), Beavertown (1914), Freeburg (1920), and Shamokin Dam (1927).

Penn Township (1758)

A political unit by this name was known long before the organization of Snyder County. In this respect Penn Township may appropriately be called the mother of Snyder County Townships. As far back as 1758, records indicate its existence in the northern part of Cumberland County. At that time Penn Township comprised the territory now included in the townships of Union, Chapman, Perry, Washington, and a portion of what is today known as Penn Township in Snyder County, as well as much of the territory of the townships of Monroe, Greenwood, and Susquehanna, in Juniata County. This territory included practically all of what is now known as Snyder County from the Mahantango Creek to Penn's Creek, and westward including portions of Juniata County.

When Northumberland County was organized in 1772, the territory of Penn Township was re-defined. The new territory included portions of Brown Township and most of Armagh and Decatur Townships in Mifflin County, the southern portions of Hartley and Lewis Townships in Union County, and all of what is now known as Snyder County with the exception of Monroe Township, and a small portion of Jackson Township. In 1787 nearly one-half of all this territory was organized into a new township called Beaver Dam (Beaver). In 1805 Centre Township was formed from portions of Penn and Beaver Dam Townships. Later the townships of Jackson, Middlecreek, Washington, Chapman, and Union, were formed from Penn Township territory.

As the population of this area increased, its territory was further sub-divided so that no less than eighteen townships in course of time were erected from it, of which only fifteen survive to the present day. The primary reason for the continued division of this large territory into smaller political units was the problem of transportation and communication. The voters in Governor Sny-

der's days had to travel great distances to vote. The election district as it was constituted in 1802 by an act of assembly embraced the whole of what is now known as Snyder County with the election place at Middleburg. Middleburg was practically the center of the territory, and therefore, the most convenient location for the voters of the area. Traveling to the polling place was done by foot, horseback, or by heavy wagon. In fact roads were in evidence only between the most public places, and frequently only "bridle paths" existed to travel distances of twenty miles. By 1885 the area of Penn Township had become reduced to approximately nine square miles.

Penn Township received its name from Penn's Creek, a stream rising in what is now Centre County and flowing in an easterly and southeasterly direction into the Susquehanna River, below Selinsgrove. This creek was named after John Penn, the younger brother of William Penn (1644-1718). The creek was known among the Indians as "Karondinha" or "Karondish" or "Kayarondinhagh". As late as 1772 it was called "Big Mahanoy Creek" or "John Penn's Creek".

There is considerable lack of uniformity in the writing and spelling of the name of the creek and of the township. Should the name be written Penn, Penns, or Penn's? Later the creek became known as "Penn's Creek", either with or without the apostrophe. The Act of Assembly of 1802 spelled the name Penns. Lewis Evan's map of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York (1749) and his map of the British Colonies in America (1755) do not even mention the creek. A map of "Part of the Province of Pennsylvania West of the Susquehanna" in Governor Morris' letter, dated February 23, 1756, shows "John Penns Creek". Nicholas Scull's map of Pennsylvania (1770) shows "Penn's Creek". Reading Howell's maps of Pennsylvania (1791, 1792, 1817) spell the name of both the creek and the township "Penns" without the apostrophe. Gordon's Gazetteer of Pennsylvania (1832) shows "Penns Creek" as does Biddle's map of Pennsylvania (1843). Beer's Atlas of Union and Snyder Counties (1860) refers to both the creek and the township as "Penns". The Rand McNally map of Snyder County (1913) refers to both the creek and the township as "Penn". The generally accepted way has been for a number of years to name the township "Penn" and the creek "Penn's".

SALEM is a small village located two miles west of

Selinsgrove. It was originally known as Rowe's for a family of that name. The name was also applied to the church of the place. When the church name was changed to Salem in 1813, the village officially became identified by that name. It contains a church, a store, a school-house, and a blacksmith shop. Salem formerly had a post-office but this was abandoned in 1904. It also contained a sash factory and a planing mill, owned and operated by William Snyder and William Haines. The factory was originally a frame building constructed in 1871. In 1873 it was destroyed by fire but soon replaced by a brick structure. In 1877 William Snyder withdrew from the firm and the business was continued by William Haines alone. Some years later, the plant was bought by the Kreamer Brothers of Kreamer, and moved to the village of Kreamer. The large three-story brick building in the center of the village was formerly a tavern. In its day it was the center of activity and business since many of the teams engaged in long-distance hauling made it the stopping-place for the night. Cattle dealers driving their herds from the western end of the county spent the night there during the days of the Pennsylvania Canal. It was known as the Boyer's Tavern because it was built by Samuel Boyer.

KANTZ is a small village located on Middle Creek at the foot of Sand Hill, about mid-way between Selinsgrove and Freeburg. It contains a general store and had a post-office from 1858 to 1912. The village was named after the Kantz family.

PENN AVON is a small village located about a mile northwest of Selinsgrove on route, Number 204. Its original name was Kreidertown after a family that formerly resided there. Then it became known as Longtown for the Long family. In course of the years, it became commonly known as Dogtown because so many dogs barked when wagons and other vehicles passed through the village. About 1923, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Drumm conducted a general store at the place, and upon their suggestion, the village received the more suitable name of Penn Avon.

CLIFFORD is located about two miles west of Selinsgrove. It was established in 1905 as a flag station on the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad. It was named after the son of one of the prominent railroad officials at the time.

PAWLING was a station on the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad, located about three miles west of Selins-

grove. The siding at the station was used for the delivery of coal and for the shipment of grain. It was so named for the Pawling family in Middle Creek valley.

BAKE OVEN HILL, located a short distance below Selinsgrove on Middle Creek, was so named on account of its fancied resemblance in shape to the old-time, out-of-door bake-oven of our forefathers.

Beaver Dam Township—Beaver Township (1787)

It must be recalled that prior to 1787 the only township in the territory later known as Snyder County was Penn Township. In that year steps were taken for the formation of a new township out of Penn Township. This action was approved by the Northumberland County Court at its May session of that year. The new township was designated Beaver Dam Township, but since about 1800 it has been known by the name of Beaver Township.* This township originally embraced what is now known as Beaver, West Beaver, Adams, Spring, and portions of Franklin and Centre Townships. The principal town is Beavertown, and was incorporated into a borough in 1914.

Centre Township (1805)

In August, 1804, a petition was presented to the Northumberland County Court by the citizens of Penn Township and portions of Beaver Township for a new township. A board of viewers, consisting of Thomas Ship-ton, John Weirick, and Frederick Evans, was appointed by the court to bring in recommendations. At the session of the court, April, 1805, the board made its report recommending the formation of a new township. The court confirmed its findings, and the name Centre was given to the new township probably because of its location. This newly-established township embraced the territory now known as Franklin, Centre, and part of Middlecreek Townships.

PENNS CREEK is located in the north central part of Centre Township. It was originally called Weirickstown, later Centreville, and today it is known as Penns Creek. When a post-office was established in 1842, the present name was assumed on account of another Centerville in Crawford County. Colonel George Weirick was the found-

* The name "Beaver" had already been given to a beaver dam in that section.

er of the village in the year 1806. He was a county commissioner of Union County in 1824, a justice of the peace in 1813, and a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania (1832-1833). In the War of 1812 he was a Lieutenant-Colonel and served with distinction. He is buried in the Lutheran and Reformed Penns Creek Cemetery. He died in 1838. Penns Creek is located five miles north of Middleburg on the public road leading to Mifflinburg. In 1885 it had about one hundred population. At the time there were two stores, one hotel, two schools, and two churches.

MIDDLESWARTH, located at the extreme western end of the township, and a short distance east of Port Ann, had a post-office from 1888 to 1906. There was also a post-office at a place known as "Ritter," located northwest of Kissimmee.

Perry Township (1816)

Up to the year 1795 what is now known as the territory of Snyder County consisted of Penn and Beaver Dam Townships. In April of that year the citizens of Penn Township petitioned the Northumberland County Court for the formation of a third township out of Penn Township. A board of viewers, consisting of Simon Snyder, Peter Hosterman, Philip Mertz, Andrew Moore, and Frederick Rood was appointed by the court to determine the advisability of erecting a new township. A year later the board made a favorable report and the court confirmed it, and ordered that the new township should be "called and known by the name of Mahantango Township". Mahantango Township originally constituted the south-eastern area of the county. It comprised the territory included in the present townships of Union, Chapman, Washington, Perry, and West Perry Townships. Mahantango Township continued in existence for about twenty-five years. By that time its territory and the number of its taxable inhabitants had become exceedingly limited in numbers as well as in area through the erection of Perry and Washington Townships. Despite every effort to enlarge it again through the annexation of lands from Penn and Perry Townships, the township ceased to exist after 1820. Its remaining territory became a part of the newly formed township of Chapman in that year.

Perry Township was formed out of the western end

of Mahantango Township in February, 1816. The citizens petitioned the Union County Court at New Berlin for a new township to be formed out of the west end of Mahantango Township. A board of viewers, consisting of Joseph Stillwell, Thomas Shipton, and Christian Royer, reported favorably, and the court confirmed the report. The new township was named Perry Township in honor of Commodore Oliver H. Perry who attained fame in the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. The eastern end of Mahantango Township continued to retain its old name.

FREMONT was originally located on a tract of land of forty acres received in payment by Michael Eckbert from Frederick Stees for digging a mill race to the grist mill at Mt. Pleasant Mills. Fremont was laid out in 1853 by George Boyer, who later on served as a county commissioner (1859-1865). The town was named after General John Charles Fremont, sometimes called the "Pathfinder of the Rocky Mountains", who was a popular hero at the time. The original lots were sold at prices ranging from \$50 to \$100 each. Israel Arbogast and P. M. Garman bought the first lots. In 1885 there were about forty houses in the place, two stores, a hotel, and a post-office. Mt. Pleasant Mills is a small village close by. In 1885 it had a store, hotel, grist mill, and a post-office. This place was probably named so because of the pleasant surroundings and for the flour and grist mill located there. The two places together are generally known as Mt. Pleasant Mills.

ALINE consisted originally of a post-office, store, and a dwelling house. It is located about three and one-half miles south of Mt. Pleasant Mills.

SHADLE was the name of a post-office located where Dennis Heiser's Planing Mill is now located, about one and one-fourth miles south of Mt. Pleasant Mills. The building in which the post-office was housed is still standing. A little farther to the south was located Shadel's Mill on Route 104 along the north branch of the Mahantango Creek and at the entrance to Buckwheat Valley. Vestiges of the old mill race are still in evidence. The mill stood where the present public road is located.

Washington Township (1818)

Washington Township was formed out of portions of three townships. In 1817 the citizens of Penn, Centre,

and Mahantango Townships petitioned the court of Union County for the erection of a new township. Three viewers were appointed by the court to consider the advisability of approving the petition. Two of the viewers, John Dreisbach and John Hays, made a favorable report at the December term of the court for 1817, and their report was confirmed by the court in 1818. The township was named after the first president of the United States.

PALLAS is located about four miles south of Freeburg. In 1885 it contained a hotel, store, and post-office. The village was founded by Daniel Eisenhart who came to Snyder County from Northumberland County about the close of the Civil War. Daniel Eisenhart was the sheriff of Snyder County (1876-1879). The post-office was established in 1870 and discontinued in 1904. The store, containing the post-office, stood on one side of the road, and the large and commodious building on the other side of the road constituted a dwelling house and hotel combined. Since the latter building was so large and imposing in appearance, the people of the community referred to it as the palace, hence the name.

WHITE TOP, located between Globe Mills and Freeburg, was probably so named because that area is usually covered with snow during the winter months. It may also have been so named on account of the white gable-ends of a large dwelling house on the highest point in that locality.

Chapman Township (1820)

In 1820 the citizens of portions of Washington and Perry Townships petitioned the Union County Court for a new township to be known by the name of Susquehanna Township. The particular reason for the request as stated in the petition was the distance and the impassability of the roads in traveling from their homes to Straubtown (Freeburg) on election days. The board of viewers, consisting of John Hays, Adam Wilt, and Joseph Stillwell, reported favorably for a new township to be known as Chapman Township in honor of Judge Seth Chapman, the president-judge of the Eighth Judicial District (1811-1833), composed of the counties of Northumberland, Lycoming, and Luzerne Counties. At the time of its formation, Chapman Township extended along the Susquehanna River from the mouth of Mahantango Creek to the Penn Township boundary line or a distance of nine miles.

McKEES HALF FALLS is located on the west bank of the Susquehanna River, about twelve miles below Selinsgrove, and eight miles north of Liverpool. It was the first settlement along the river in territory now comprising the southern portion of Snyder County. The village was named after Thomas McKee, a famous Indian trader who frequented the locality as early as 1744, at a time when the Indians held undisputed dominion of the forests. Later he made a settlement at the place named after him. An Indian path extended across his land at the mouth of Mahantango Creek from the Indian village of Shamokin at the forks of the Susquehanna to the Juniata River in the neighborhood of the present site of Thompsontown. The falls constitute a ledge of rocks jutting in some places from six to ten feet above the water, and extending at that place only half-way across the river. The general nature of the rock strata forms a natural dam over which the waters of the river rush with considerable rumblings.

Between the public road and the old canal bed at McKees Half Falls stood an old hotel. This hotel was built probably about 1800 and was the stopping place of men of prominence who traveled through this region on public and private business. The hotel was also used by raftsmen before the days of the railroad when the river was extensively used for lumber transportation. About one and one-half miles south of McKees Half Falls stood Weiser's Mill, and a large stone house built in 1790. A few hundred yards east is the site of the aqueduct where the canal passed over Mahantango Creek. McKees Half Falls was a thriving place in the days of the canal. It was a large trading center for railroad ties, bark and coal, and for general merchandise, for the Fremont, Meiserville, and Richfield areas.

MEISERVILLE is a small village which, in 1885, consisted of a store, hotel, post-office, a wagon manufacturing shop, and a blacksmith shop. The village is located on the road from Middleburg south to the Susquehanna Trail and on the road from McKees Half Falls. The village was named after a prominent family of the community.

HOFFER is a small village, and was named after a prominent family in Chapman Township.

INDEPENDENCE is a small village on the Susquehanna Trail, two miles north of McKees Half Falls. When the old stage-coach route between Harrisburg and North-

umberland was in operation, a tavern, opened by George Herrold in 1784, was the stopping place of the stage coach. It was at this place where the horses were exchanged. The village took its name after the swinging sign of the tavern on which was painted the coat-of-arms of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the motto "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence". This sign proved to be a symbol of stage-coach and tavern days of the Pennsylvania Canal. The sign was removed about the time of World War I when the old hostelry was converted into a silk-throwing mill, and later destroyed by fire. In 1885, Independence had a hotel, store, a schoolhouse, and eighteen dwelling houses.

Middlecreek Township (1838)

Middlecreek Township was formed out of portions of Penn, Centre, and Washington Townships in 1838. The usual procedure in the erection of a new township was followed. The viewers were Ner Middleswarth, Joseph Stillwell, and Valentine Haas, and their report was confirmed by the court in 1838. Middlecreek Township at the time of its erection was almost twice the size of the present Middlecreek Township. When Jackson Township was formed in 1853, nearly half of it was taken from the northern part of Middlecreek Township. It was named for the creek that flows through it.

KREAMER is located on the south side of the Middle Creek along the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad, about halfway between Selinsgrove and Middleburg. It was formerly known as Smithgrove, but the railroad station and the postoffice were called Kreamer. Finally the town was named Kreamer after the Hon. George Kremer who represented the district in Congress for three successive terms (1823-1829). The town was laid out in lots in June, 1868. It was known as Smithgrove for many years in honor of its distinguished citizen, Jacob A. Smith, who conducted a mercantile business there from 1866 until his death in 1894.

The history of Smithgrove is very largely the story of the life of its founder. Jacob A. Smith was born on a farm in 1825 in what is now Franklin Township. He was left an orphan when only three weeks old. He had three brothers and seven sisters. At the age of seventeen, he began his two-year apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade. For sometime he followed this trade in Snyder and Perry Counties. He built the first courthouse at Middleburg

in 1856 and remodeled the "Washington House" as a hotel, and occupied it for three years.

In 1862 he purchased the Jacob Mohr farm in Middlecreek Township and moved there in the same year. Shortly thereafter, he went into the store business. At the time of his coming, the site of Smithgrove was a farm with two houses. In twenty years the village had grown to twenty-five houses, two general stores, a hotel (half-way house), a post-office, a railroad station, a blacksmith shop, a shoemaker's shop, and an Evangelical Church. The town undoubtedly owed its growth very largely to the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad and the mining of iron-ore in the hills south of the town. From the railroad station, this ore was shipped to various manufacturing centers. The chief industry of Kreamer today (1948) is the Wood-Metal Industries, Inc., embracing the buildings formerly occupied by a silk mill and a planing mill. The town is composed of seventy-nine dwelling houses, and has a population closely approximating 300 inhabitants. The town has a Lutheran Church, a public schoolhouse, a garage, a hotel known as the "Valley House", two general stores with dwellings attached, and a large building in which are housed a store, a restaurant, postoffice, and a dwelling apartment.

Jacob A. Smith was an enthusiastic supporter of the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad. He contributed \$1700 toward its completion, donated the land for the erection of a station house, and was the first agent of the company at this place. A postoffice was founded there about 1860, and Jacob A. Smith served as postmaster from 1862 to 1882 when he resigned, and his daughter became his successor. He served as associate judge of the county (1885-1887). He was a school director in Middlecreek Township for sixteen years, and was also assessor and assistant assessor of the township. He was very active in church and Sunday School work, and was much in demand as a speaker at conventions and Sunday School celebrations. He invariably spoke in the Pennsylvania German dialect, related many humorous stories to illustrate his point much to the delight of his hearers, and impressed the people with his religious fervor and sincerity. He died in 1894 and was buried in a private cemetery located a short distance east of the town.

Probably the most interesting landmark in the township was the old blockhouse located a short distance west

of Kreamer. Its history is given in connection with the Indian Troubles within the county, and need not be recounted here. A marker along highway, Number 522, gives the location of the blockhouse. The Stock Massacre occurred on the north side of the Middle Creek in 1781, about a mile east of the village of Globe Mills. Another interesting landmark is the Kreamer Hotel frequently referred to as the Half-Way House because of its location between Selinsgrove and Middleburg. This building of wood, brick, and stone was erected as a private residence by Jacob Schoch in 1822. In fact the building looks like three more or less distinct buildings adjoining one another. On the west side in the attic is a drawing of a spread-eagle with the word "Liberty" over the eagle's head. Below the eagle is the inscription—"Never give up the Ship" and the artist's name, Peter Wareham. Jacob Schoch, the son of Matthias Schoch, was born and reared in what is now known as Middlecreek Township. He was a blacksmith by trade and followed that trade throughout his life. A son of Jacob Schoch, John A. Schoch, was born near Kreamer in 1808. He inherited the stone house from his father, and moved into it in 1831. At the time, it was the only house in Kreamer. The house was sold in 1836 and converted into a tavern which became known as the Half-Way House or the Valley House. It soon passed out of the possession of the Schoch family. In 1836, John A. Schoch moved to a farm three miles west of Middleburg. He lived there until his death in 1863. The hotel is one of the old landmarks of that locality. Before the formation of the county, when the county-seat was at New Berlin, special courts were sometimes held in this hotel.

GLOBE MILLS is a small village of a few houses, located about two miles west of Kreamer on the north side of Middle Creek. About fifty years ago, it had two general stores and a postoffice. Prior to that time, a tannery was in operation at the place. On the south side of the Middle Creek is the Globe Mills Flour Mills and the railroad station called Meiser.

A few hundred yards directly north of Erdley's Church was a postoffice, in Jackson Township, called "Yerger" from 1898 to 1901.

West Beaver Township (1843)

A petition was presented to the Union County court in 1839 for the division of Beaver Township. A board of

viewers consisting of Samuel Barber, Robert G. Hays, and George Kremer was appointed to make some recommendations. About six months later, the viewers in their report recommended the erection of a new township to be known as Lewis Township. The court failed to confirm the report. In January, 1843, a second petition was presented and another board of viewers, consisting of M. H. Weaver, Thomas Bower, and James K. Davis was appointed. This board made its report in May of that year. The court confirmed the report and the new township became known as West Beaver Township.

BANNERVILLE is located about five miles north of McClure, near the boundary line between Snyder and Mifflin Counties. Prior to 1850, this village in the western end of the county was known by the name of "Cheesetown". The peculiarity of the name immediately arouses ones curiosity with respect to the origin. Before the days of the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad, mail and passengers were carried between the Lewistown area and Northumberland and Sunbury by stagecoach, and this stagecoach route extended directly through this community. According to the story, an elderly lady of the village was very fond of "Dutch Cheese" which she herself made. This cheese was made in the shape of apple-dumplings and exposed to the sun and weather on a board on the porch-roof of her home so as to give it the desired flavor. The stagecoach passengers noticed this display and inquired the name of the place. It is said that one of the passengers replied "Cheesetown". In this way this odd name became attached to the place for many years. It is interesting to note that the McClure Bean Soup Celebration originated in a meeting of the local post of the G. A. R. on the second floor of a blacksmith shop in Bannerville in July, 1883.

Probably its present name provides just as much of a mystery. It is said that during a political campaign, it became known that all the voters in the town belonged to the same political party, and hence the name Bannerville was given to the place. As late as 1885 there wasn't any church there because the inhabitants were affiliated with the churches of the neighboring community although a Sunday School had been conducted in the schoolhouse since 1856. Mail connections began with McClure upon the completion of the Middlecreek Valley Railroad. In 1885 the town had a population of less than a hundred people. The occupations listed at that time were lumber-

ing, carpentry, tanning, mercantile business, wagon-making, and blacksmithing.

McCLURE practically owes its origin to the building of the Middlecreek Valley Railroad, later known as the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad. The land on which the present town of McClure is located was owned, in 1867, by George Stuck. He laid out a few lots and named the place Stuckton. A Mrs. Polly Obermyer purchased the first lot in 1871, and dug out the cellar for a house herself. This lot was located on the north side of Railroad Street. In July, 1871, Stuck deeded some land to the Railroad Company as the site of a railroad station. In the following August, Stuck sold the land to George Holshue who employed A. K. Gift to lay out additional lots. In all there were 209 lots. The name Stuckton was replaced by the name McClure, in honor of Colonel Alexander McClure editor of the old Philadelphia Times, a noted journalist and writer, and an official of the railroad company at the time.

McClure grew rapidly from its very beginning. It proved to be favorably located for a grain market and a shipping center for that region. In 1871, Abraham Holshue, a brother of the owner of the town lots, established a general store on the west corner of Bower and Walker Streets. This store was destroyed by fire in 1885 but later rebuilt. Then followed the erection of a blacksmith shop, a wagon-making shop, a hotel, a water-driven saw-mill, a steam-driven stave factory, a foundry, a flour and grist mill, a hotel, and a distillery. In 1885, its population was approximately seventy-five people. The Evangelical Church which was the only church in the place, was erected in 1872. For about a quarter of a century, approximately from 1890 to 1915, lumbering on Shade Mountain was the principal industry in the community. Scores of men were employed in that work, and the town was prosperous.

During the first part of the present century, McClure became a great manufacturing town. In 1905, a bank was organized, a newspaper established, and a water system started. In 1906, a fire company was organized, and re-organized in 1933, and housed in a commodious building called the Fire Hall. In 1907, The Union Furniture and Manufacturing Company conducted by Thomas H. Spigelmeyer and Henry Knepp, was engaged in the manufacture of all kinds of furniture such as dressers, chiffoniers, sideboards, and the like. It employed from fifty to seventy-

five men, and had an invested capital of \$100,000. This furniture company proved to be the mainspring of the business of the community for the time. At different times, the town had a soap factory, shirt factory, and a silk-weaving mill. McClure has an active Chamber of Commerce.

RAUBS MILLS, a flag station on the Lewistown-Sunbury Railroad, was located where the railroad crosses the old black top road from Beaver Springs to McClure, about three miles west of Beaver Springs. It was named after Raub's Saw-mill, located directly across the road from the station. LOWELL had a post-office from 1888 to 1904. CROSSGROVE had a post-office from 1892 to 1904, and was so named for the Crossgrove family. The place was originally known as Middleswarth, after the Hon. Ner Middleswarth.

Franklin Township (1853)

An attempt was made as early as 1822 to erect a new township by dividing Centre Township. The petition for a new township stated that the citizens of Centre Township and West Buffalo Township in Union County, were very much inconvenienced by the size of the election districts, and therefore, requested the formation of a new township out of the territory belonging to those two townships. The recommendation of the board of viewers, consisting of Frederick Gutelius, Robert Barker, and Robert Foster was that the proposed new township of Franklin be the northern part of Centre Township as constituted in 1805, and the name of Centre should be retained for the southern part. Nothing further, however, seemed to have been done prior to 1830. In that year, the movement for a new township was given fresh impetus by the appointment of a deputy as an assistant to the constable on the grounds that the township was too large for one constable alone. A second petition was filed with the court in 1842, and the board of viewers, consisting of James Madden, Joseph Stillwell, and John Foster recommended the formation of a new township to be called Franklin. This proposed township was to have about the same territory as comprises Centre Township today. On account of objections and remonstrances, the court did not confirm the report. In 1853, another board was appointed, consisting of James F. Linn, John Schoch, and John Gundy. Its report was confirmed by the court, and Franklin Township as it is now constituted was

created. This was finally accomplished after thirty-one years of effort along this line. The township was so named in all probability for Benjamin Franklin. The name is perpetuated likewise by Franklin Rolling Mills, located in that portion of Middleburg on the south side of Middle Creek, more commonly known years ago as Franklin but called today Swineford.

PAXTONVILLE is located at the base of Shade Mountain about two and one-half miles south-west of Middleburg. The place at one time was known as Beaver Furnace. The railroad station was called Benfer. In the course of time, the place was named after Robert Paxton. A blast furnace was located in Paxtonville in 1848. The name of the firm was Middleswarth, Kern and Co. The men chiefly interested in the establishment of the furnace were the Honorable Ner Middleswarth, Jacob Kern, Daniel Kern, and John C. Wilson. Charcoal and pig-iron were manufactured there to the amount of six to eight tons per day. The iron furnace was wrecked by an explosion in 1856, repaired again, and kept in operation until 1866 when it was permanently abandoned. To this furnace and the ore-mines in the neighborhood, must be attributed the founding of the village. For many years the pig-iron was hauled by wagon drawn by six-horse teams to Selinsgrove and there shipped by canal boats to various parts of the state. About 1871 Robert Paxton became the owner of the property, continued to operate the mines, and shipped the ore to the Bloomsburg Iron Works. John Kern had a grist-mill and a saw-mill near the place in 1812. In 1885 the village had a post-office, schoolhouse, store, and a church. The population in that year was about sixty-two inhabitants.

KISSIMMEE, a small village about four miles north-west of Middleburg, was named by the Post-Office Department for a town in Osceola County, Florida, during the real estate boom days in that southern state. The origin of the name and its meaning appear to be lost in antiquity. It is supposed, however, to have come from an Indian tribe that inhabited Florida prior to the Seminoles.

Jackson Township (1854)

In May, 1853, a petition from the citizens of Union, Limestone, and Penn Townships was presented to the Union County court at New Berlin for the formation of a new township. The board of viewers, consisting of David

Weirick, George Motz, and Jonas Harrison reported unfavorably on the petition. Immediately another petition was presented, and a different board of viewers was appointed by the court. This board, consisting of Henry Motz, Samuel Wilson, and Abraham Schoch reported favorably on the petition. To this report, remonstrances were filed, and the report was referred back to the board for further consideration, but the board re-affirmed its former recommendation. Objections were then filed but these were over-ruled, and the township received the name of Jackson, after Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States (1829-1837).

When Union County was divided in 1855, the greater portion of Jackson Township came within the bounds of Snyder County, leaving such a small portion of the township in Union County, that its size and population did not warrant the continuance of the township in Union County. By an act of the Assembly, March 2, 1858, this portion was annexed to Union and Limestone Townships in Union County. By an act of the Assembly of May 1, 1861, a portion of Union and Snyder Counties was organized into an independent school district known as the Union School District. This union district is comprised of a part of Jackson and Union Townships in the two counties.

KRATZERVILLE is located on a hill on the public road leading from Selinsgrove to New Berlin, about midway between these two places, and about one-fourth mile south of Penn's Creek. The place was originally known as Hessler's or Hesslerville. The town received its present name in 1847 because of its location on lands originally owned by Daniel Kratzer. At that time there existed at the place a schoolhouse, a Lutheran and German Reformed Church, a store-house, and the dwelling house of Daniel Kratzer. This proved to be the beginning of the town of Kratzerville. The population in 1885 was about 100 inhabitants. At that time there were two churches—the Lutheran and German Reformed and the Evangelical Church, two general stores, a post-office, a schoolhouse, a tavern, a saddler-shop, a blacksmith shop, a saw-mill, a wagon-making factory, and a confectionery and drug-store. Among the more prominent citizens of the town were Dr. Percival Herman, the physician; Henry S. Beaver and J. M. Dauberman, merchants; John S. Beaver, merchant, tavern-keeper and postmaster; and A. A. Hummel, confectioner and druggist. The first postoffice was established in 1846 with

Thomas Yearick as the postmaster. At first the village had only a weekly mail, then tri-weekly mail, and since about 1870 a daily mail. The post-office was discontinued in 1934.

Monroe Township (1856)

The territory that now constitutes Monroe Township belonged to Penn and Union Townships prior to 1856. In December, 1855, the Union County Court was petitioned to erect a new township out of portions of these two townships. These portions were the north-eastern part of Penn Township and the southern part of Union Township. The court appointed F. C. Moyer, George Hilbish, and Henry Motz as a board of viewers to determine the practicability of the petition. This commission presented its report at the January, 1856, term of court with a favorable recommendation. The report was approved by the court, May, 1856, and the new township in Snyder County received the name of Monroe after James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States (1817-1825).

About one-half of the residents of the township are engaged in agricultural pursuits. The township contains some of the best farming land in the county. The soil is largely made up of red shale and sandstone. Chestnut Ridge is nearly all red shale. The other residents are employed in local and near-by industries. The township has one railroad which follows the northeastern boundary of Blue Hill. The Selinsgrove and Sunbury Railway (1907-1934) traversed the entire length of the township. The Railway Company operated a power house and repair shop at Hummels Wharf. In 1885 there were eight schools in the township. The teachers were paid an average salary of twenty-eight dollars per month. Today the township has three one-room schools and a four-room school built in 1926 at Hummels Wharf. The high school pupils of the township attend the schools at Selinsgrove and Sunbury. In the northern part of the township is located the Schreiner's Church of the Evangelical Association, built in 1882. The Evangelical Church at Hummels Wharf was organized in 1914. Rolling Green Park is a large recreation center near Hummels Wharf. Immediately to the south of the park is the Susquehanna Valley Country Club and golf course.

In 1907, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company through its representative, J. Murray Africa, purchased real estate

in Monroe Township, between Selinsgrove and Shamokin Dam, to the extent of about 3,000 acres. At the time great excitement and much speculation prevailed throughout the eastern section of the county with respect to what use the railroad company would put this land. The death of A. J. Cassatt, the president of the company, brought about the abandonment of the plan to construct a large freight classification yard and construction shops. The plan was afterwards carried out in part in Northumberland. Some years later, an option was taken on much agricultural land between Penn's Creek and Hummels Wharf by the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia with the intention of moving their large plant from Philadelphia to Monroe Township. In May, 1921, sixteen acres of land near Rolling Green Park were sold by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to the Susquehanna Valley Country Club for a golf course. The railroad company reserved the right to run pipe lines across the golf links to build a reservoir on the top of the hill.

Blue Hill

Blue Hill is a beautiful hill located along the Susquehanna River in the northeastern part of the county in Monroe Township, and in the southeastern part of Union County in Union Township. By far, the larger part of Blue Hill is in Union County. The view of the hill from its base is wholly inadequate. No person can appreciate Blue Hill who hasn't enjoyed the panoramic view from its summit. To say the least, the view from the top is worth the climb. Directly 300 feet below is the confluence of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River. At the apex of the angle is located the town of Northumberland and the home of Joseph Priestly, the discoverer of oxygen. Farther south was the Indian town of Shamokin, now Sunbury, and Ft. Augusta, an early outpost of civilization and a defense against the French and Indians, and the river valley for miles with its farms and woods. The hill must have been the favorite rendezvous of the Indians in their efforts to understand the world, nature, and the Great Spirit. What the rising and the setting sun, the flowing river, and the interminable forest of hills and valleys beneath must have meant to them can only be matters of conjecture.

There are different roads leading to the top. Probably the best one goes up through the first ravine a short distance below the Northumberland Bridge. The top can

also quite easily be reached from the side of Granger's Hollow, and by the approaches from Chestnut Ridge and Winfield. Foot passengers can follow winding paths leading to the summit. The road leading up the ravine on the east side of the hill along the river was originally an early Indian trail that circumvented the summit, and then followed the course of the river northward to the White Deer Valley and beyond. No person should attempt to climb any of the precipitous sides because of the great danger involved. Many a tragic story has been related of children and youth, and even adults, who lost their balance, fell over the rocky sides of the cliff, and were killed; while others, more fortunate, were caught on ledges of the rocks and heroically rescued by daring persons at the peril of their own lives. The highest point of the bluff is directly opposite the town of Northumberland, where its elevation is about 500 ft. above the river. At this spot, on its eastern slope, is found the massive rocky profile of the Indian Chief Shikellamy so clearly outlined by the rocks that no stretch of the imagination is at all necessary to discern it on a clear day. The view of Shikellamy's face from the site of Ft. Augusta is impressive. Truman H. Purdy, Esq., the father of our present Truman Purdy, Esq., and a resident of Shamokin Dam, in his "Legends of the Susquehanna" has immortalized the profile in the following verse:

Half up those rocks, conspicuous in place,
Time's hand has chiseled Shikellamy's face,
Which, looking eastward o'er the rippling wave,
Beholds the place where chieftains made his grave.
And yet along that beach, still whispering there,
One hears low murmurs floating on the air—
"Loved Shikellamy!" say the waves that rise,
"Fond Nenaoma!" back the wind replies,
And so forever, and forevermore,
Their names shall live on Susquehanna's shore.

During the stirring days of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), Ft. Augusta was constructed at Shamokin (Sunbury) for the protection of the frontier against invasions by the French and Indians. It was undoubtedly one of the best constructed and most important fortifications in the Province. To this fort the settlers fled for protection from attacks by the French and Indians. The French felt the capture of the fort was necessary to secure control of the Susquehanna. They had plans to attack Ft. Augusta from the top of Blue Hill. They evidently had been told that it was possible to look right into the fort from the top of the hill but they soon found out otherwise.

To capture the fort, a military force from Ft. Duquesne was transported by the way of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. This force encamped some distance below the present site of Williamsport. From this place a corps of French military engineers set out to reconnoiter and to determine the possibility of the capture of the fort. These engineers encamped in the fall of 1756 on the top of Blue Hill. They had brought with them three brass cannon but they soon discovered that the distance to the fort made their use impracticable. After further survey of the situation, the need of heavier cannon, the difficulty of crossing a wide river to reach the fort, as well as the great strength of the fort, forced them to abandon the undertaking.

It is said that the Indians frequently appeared on the top of the hill to demonstrate their insolence to the soldiers of Ft. Augusta, and their utter disregard for the fort. On one occasion the soldiers in the fort fired a cannon in their direction. The shot hit a tree scattering pieces of wood in all directions to the utter consternation of the savages. When the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad was built about 1882 around the base of the Blue Hill, the workmen unearthed several cannon balls which undoubtedly had been fired from Ft. Augusta.

Marcus Huling

Blue Hill was undoubtedly the scene of many hairbreadth escapes and thrilling experiences of the white people and the Indians in early colonial days. Some of these stories that have come down to us through the years probably lack historical authenticity; no doubt most of them have a factual basis because the location and the time could not very well have it otherwise. Tradition tells the story of a very daring escape from pursuing hostile Indians that was made from the top of Blue Hill by one of the early residents of Northumberland by making a double leap to safety over the frightful precipice. According to the story, a man by the name of Marcus Huling had crossed the river to the west side from Northumberland, and had gone to the top of Blue Hill by way of the first ravine. Suddenly he found himself pursued by hostile Indians. Escape by way of the ravine had been cut off. He ran to the edge of the precipice resolved to drop over it by swinging from the limb of a tree. In making the leap he landed on a shelf of rocks some ninety feet below but without injury. Then he made a second leap of forty feet but in landing this

time he dislocated his shoulder. The savages wouldn't dare to follow him in that way, and by the time they had reached the foot of the hill, he had escaped. Some of his friends had seen his predicament and had come to his rescue by boat.

John Mason

Of the first white people who settled on the top of Blue Hill, little or nothing appears to be known. Prior to 1800, a man by the name of John Mason, a Quaker from Philadelphia, erected a two-story frame building on the highest point and had it painted white. The house had a fifty foot front and was surrounded by a portico. On the top of the house was an observatory. Near by, on the very edge of the precipice, standing on the forehead of Shikellamy's profile, and leaning over it at an angle of 35°, he had erected a tower commonly known as "the leaning tower" to serve as an observatory. This tower was two stories in height, octagonal in shape, about sixteen feet by eighteen feet in size, and securely fastened to a solid foundation by means of iron bolts. Its top was covered with a flat roof and surrounded by a railing. The tower was built about 1833 and was destroyed about the time of the close of the Civil War by some drunken ruffians as a sheer act of vandalism by loosening it from its iron moorings just to see it tumbling over the steep precipice.

John Mason was evidently an eccentric person, who, as gossip would have it, was disappointed in love, and became an avowed woman-hater throughout his life. In his youth, it is reported that he wanted to go to sea but his parents would not give their consent. Through the influence of James Jenkins, who had a store at the base of Blue Hill where Turtle Creek empties into the West Branch, and who was a frequent visitor to the Mason's in Philadelphia, John Mason was induced to come to this locality. Upon his arrival, he took up his abode in Northumberland and engaged in the mercantile business but later conducted a store at Turtle Creek probably in partnership with Jenkins. In due time, Mason became the owner of a ninety acre farm on the top of the Blue Hill, and ultimately made it his home. There on the top of Blue Hill, John Mason lived the life of a hermit except in the winter months when he spent his time on a farm near Newberry in Lycoming County. Only a few persons were privileged to see him, but when they did happen to come, he treated them with the utmost courtesy providing they

didn't disturb him. He returned to his native Philadelphia about twice a year, usually making the journey on foot. It is reported that he was an excellent skater and made the trip to Newberry on skates on the West Branch. He was likewise an excellent horseman. The following story is told illustrating his idiosyncrasies. He started on horseback to Philadelphia. When approaching the city, the horse became lame. Instead of placng the horse somewhere for care, and walking to the city, he led the horse back home and restarted, on foot, the long journey back to Philadelphia.

Mason died on the farm of a friend near Newberry in 1849. He was buried temporarily at that place. Before his death, he expressed the wish to be buried at his home on the Blue Hill. The following winter, the body was brought on a sled to Blue Hill for burial along a driveway near his house and leaning tower. The grave was originally marked by a marble tombstone but the stone was hacked by ruthless relic hunters so that, to save it from utter destruction, it was taken from the grave, and has since been preserved in the Slear homestead near by. The marker contains the following inscription:

John Mason of Blue Hill, Born in Philadelphia, December 7, 1768. Departed this life at the Long Reach farm, near Newberry, Lycoming County, April 25, 1849. Aged 80 years, four months, and eighteen days.

Hotel Shikellamy

Because of the magnificent view from the summit of Blue Hill, at one time it was thought desirable to build a large summer hotel on its highest point. This plan was adopted and carried out by the Drumheller Brothers, Oliver, Seren, and Francis, the proprietors of the city Hotel of Sunbury, now the Edison Hotel. They purchased forty acres of land on the hill, cleared the ground, and erected a very expensive hotel there at a cost of \$50,000 and named it Hotel Shikellamy after the famous Indian Chief. The building was large and attractive for the times and was visited by many people from a distance, both far and near, during the summer months. It was built in 1891 and completely destroyed by fire in 1898 and never rebuilt. For eight years it served as a very popular hostelry and attractive summer resort for parties, dances, and other social functions in the "gay nineties". In addition to serving as a summer hotel and pleasure resort, the hotel building and grounds served as a meeting place for many

public gatherings. The Lutherans of the Susquehanna Valley had at least one reunion there, and the Pennsylvania National Guard Encampment took place one season just above the hotel.

Probably the most noted Bible Conference of its kind ever held at Hotel Shikellamy, was the meeting of the Pennsylvania State Young Men's Christian Association in June, 1896. Among the speakers and conference leaders at this meeting were Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman of Philadelphia, Dr. Reuben A. Torrey, Superintendent of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, and Robert E. Speer, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. The patrons were ferried across the river from Sunbury and then transported to the top of the hill by hacks.

Because of its location, size and magnificence, a brief description of the hotel seems in order. The hotel was located on the crest of Blue Hill within a few yards of the precipice. It was 125 ft. by 145 ft. in size, three stories in height, and artistically ornamented with gables, observatories, and domes. It presented a very beautiful and imposing appearance. It had a wide rotunda on each floor. It was equipped with a ladies' reception room, elegant parlors, gentlemen's sitting, smoking and writing rooms, and a billiard room and bowling alley. The dining room was capacious, being thirty-two feet by eighty-five feet in size. There were about eighty rooms on the second and third floors for the guests. On each floor there were toilets, bathrooms, and electric bells. Gas was used for illuminating purposes. On the south side was a veranda ranging in width from six feet to fifteen feet. The lawn was terraced and ornamented with flowers and shrubs. There were tennis courts and croquet grounds, and a dancing pavilion thirty-five feet by sixty-five feet in the grove of twenty acres adjoining the hotel. A well, 502 feet deep, was the source of its water supply.

CLEMENT STATION on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad on the west shore, was named in honor of Ira T. Clement, a Sunbury industrialist who operated a ferry as a means of crossing the river at that point. Clement Park was a summer resort on the west side. Upon the completion of the Reading Railroad Spur, the station became known as Shamokin Dam.

HUMMELS WHARF is the largest unincorporated village in the township and is located on the Susquehanna

Trail. It was named after Captain John Hummel, a soldier of the War of 1812, and the builder of the wharf on the west bank of the Susquehanna River. Hummels Wharf and Shamokin Dam were prominent business places in the days when the old stage coach between Harrisburg and Northumberland, the Pennsylvania Canal, and the Susquehanna River rafts were in operation. The river and the canal were great factors in the growth and development of these two places.

West Perry Township (1858)

In 1856, an effort was put forth to effect a division of Perry Township by a line running east and west, but it met with defeat. The commissioners, consisting of David Weirick, David Showers, and J. Henry App made a favorable report to the court but there appeared to be too much opposition to the proposal for the court to confirm the report. Another petition was circulated the same year calling for the division of the township by a line running north and south. Since there had been presented two petitions for the division of the county, the one by a line east and west, and the other by a line running north and south, the court decreed that the issue should be decided by the voters of the township at a special election. This election was accordingly held, March, 1858, on a division from north to south, and a majority appeared to be opposed to division. A remonstrance was filed "that the election was held in an undue and unfair way, and that the tickets were not in accordance with the Act of the Assembly". A second election was ordered, October, 1858, on a north and south division, and resulted in favor of division of the township. The action was confirmed by the court and the new township was named West Perry. This new township was simply the western part of the old Perry Township. The northern part of West Perry Township consists of Heister's Valley, located immediately south of Shade Mountain; the southern part of the township consists of Buckwheat Valley bordering on West Mahantango Creek; and Limestone Valley makes up the middle portion.

RICHFIELD is located in the northern part of Monroe Township, Juniata County, on the West Branch of Mahantango Creek. In 1877 it contained about thirty-five houses, several stores, a post-office, a hotel, a church, and a tannery. Today Richfield has a population of 400. Among the main industries are fruit growing and hatcheries. The

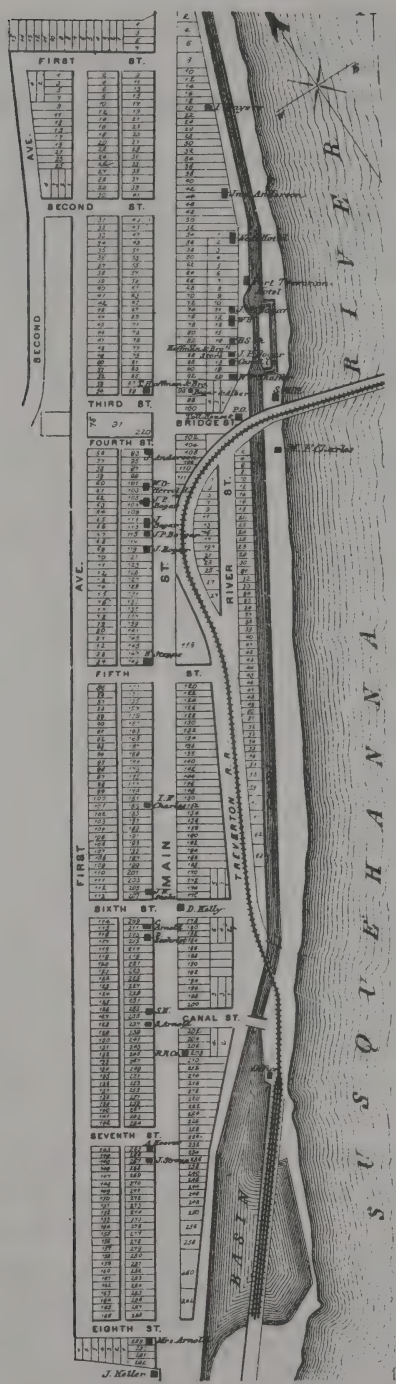
town contains a Lutheran, Reformed, United Brethren, and two Mennonite churches.

STROUPTOWN had a post-office from 1888 to 1906.

Union Township (1869)

A petition by the citizens of Chapman Township was presented in February, 1857, to the Snyder County Court of Quarter Sessions, asking for the erection of a new township out of the territory known as Chapman Township. The board of viewers consisting of Ner Middleswarth, John Troxell, and George Schoch, made a negative report to the court in May of that year on the grounds that the majority of the citizens were opposed to such a division. The report was confirmed by the court in February, 1858. A second attempt was made to divide Chapman Township in 1859. The board of viewers made a favorable report this time, and recommended that the proposed township should be called McKee Township. There appears to have been some opposition to the action, and the court ordered an election to be held by the qualified voters of Chapman Township in August, 1860. There doesn't seem to be any evidence that such an election was then held and that anything further was done about the matter. In 1861, a board of viewers made a report to the court recommending the formation of a new township. For some reasons, the project was delayed until April, 1869, when an election was held with the result that 185 votes were cast in favor of division and thirty-five votes against division. The court then ordered the erection of the new township to be known by the name of Union Township. It probably took this name because of the popularity of the term at the close of the Civil War. This township extended along the Susquehanna River from the mouth of Herrold's Creek to the Penn Township boundary line, a distance of about four miles.

PORT TREVORTON. The town of Port Trevorton was laid out in 1854, and named in honor of John Trevor, a New York City capitalist, who was interested in the development of the coal industry in the southern part of Northumberland County, and who was one of the original stockholders of the Trevorton Coal and Railway Company. The land on which the town was built was owned at one time by New York capitalists. To provide an outlet for the coal, a railroad and bridge were built across the Sus-



Map of Port Trevorton

quehanna River at Port Trevorton to connect with the Pennsylvania Canal at that place. Trevor was very active in financing and promoting this railroad and the bridge. This explains why his name became attached to so many places in that vicinity such as Port Trevorton, the Trevorton Bridge, the Trevorton Railroad, the Trevorton Junction where this railroad crossed the tracks of the North Central Railroad (now Herndon), and the town of Trevorton as the upper terminus of the railroad and shipping point at the coal mines. As the name Port Trevorton implies, the town was a river port for the shipment of coal and lumber on the canal.

In canal days Port Trevorton was a very busy port with its combined railroad and driving bridge across the river. The bridge builders, the canal boatmen, the river raftsmen, and working men of all classes enlivened the town and the entire community. It was reported at the time that four taverns sprang up in the village of about a dozen houses. The Trevorton Coal and Railroad Company built the bridge across the river about 1854. It was a double bridge and had a wagon track on it as well as a railroad track, for the transportation of coal to the canal to be shipped to points along its way, and for the shipment of farm products and cattle to the coal regions. Over this bridge extended the tracks of the Trevorton, Mahanoy, and Susquehanna Railroad from the Trevorton mines, twenty miles to the east, across the North Central Railroad tracks at the Trevorton Junction (now Herndon). Over this bridge also backed the passenger train from Harrisburg to meet the packet boats on the canal at Port Trevorton during the interim before the North Central Railroad was extended to Sunbury and beyond. On July 24, 1857, the first passenger train on the North Central Railroad arrived at the Trevorton Junction from Harrisburg, then crossed the bridge of the Trevorton Coal and Railway Company to Port Trevorton where a sumptuous banquet was served at the Weaver Hotel to the presidents of the two railroad companies and other officials and prominent citizens. The formal opening of the North Central Railroad into Sunbury occurred, May 25, 1858, when at 9 A. M. a train left Sunbury for Harrisburg. Among the passengers was the Hon. William F. Packer, Governor of Pennsylvania (1858-1861).

The Trevorton, Mahanoy, and Susquehanna Railway fed a three-track elevated wharf at Port Trevorton where

the coal was dumped into the empty canal boats in the basin below. Port Trevorton at the time had a canal lock, two taverns, two stores, a telegraph office, a coal basin, and a toll house. The present community park is located on the site of this basin. In course of time, the river bridge was regarded as unsafe and was taken down in 1870. The piers of the bridge are still standing. In 1885 Port Trevorton had a population of about 400 people. There were two chartered ferries, one was chartered in 1870 and the other in 1885. The town also had a large saw-mill, a planing mill, a rubber factory, and some flourishing clay pits. Still later, it had shirt factories, a stocking factory, and a silk mill.

DUNDORE. This place is located on the Susquehanna Trail between Selinsgrove and Port Trevorton. It was originally known as Witmers after Daniel Witmer, who owned considerable land in that neighborhood. Later the name was changed to Dundore after Nathan T. Dundore, the son-in-law of Associate Judge Daniel Witmer, who conducted a store at that place. His residence was used as a tavern for stage coaches, and during the canal days was known as the "Drag Hotel". The tavern had an old spike-tooth harrow hanging from a beam, which proved a welcome sign for travelers, raftsmen, and canal boatmen, and a never-failing source of unusual hospitality. Richard P. Gaugler now conducts a store there and the place has become known as Gaugler's. The general store at Dundore, in the days of the canal, catered to the countryside extending far back into the hilly portion of the township. Dundore had a post-office from 1880 to 1906.

VERDILLA is a small village about three miles west of the Susquehanna Trail. It was named in honor of the daughter of Isaac Longacre, the first postmaster of the place. It had a post-office from 1883 to 1906. There are located there today a general store and an Evangelical and Reformed Church, and a schoolhouse.

PRODUCE. This was the name of a post-office (1902-1906). It was located at a farm house about one-half mile from the Upper Herrold Schoolhouse and the Susquehanna Mennonite Church. These latter places are located in the upper portion of a road from the Susquehanna Trail near the village of Chapman.

THE NARROWS below Selinsgrove is about one and one-half miles in length. The Susquehanna Trail at this

place is built on a narrow ledge with almost perpendicular cliffs several hundred feet in height. Sometimes the Narrows is referred to as Aqueduct Hollow because here may still be seen the ruins of the old aqueduct by which the canal was carried across the creek to the southern portion of the Isle of Que.

CHAPMAN is a village on the Susquehanna Trail, a short distance north of Independence. It is situated in both Union and Chapman Townships but the greater portion is in Union Township. It was named after Judge Seth Chapman of the Eighth Judicial District, comprising at the time the counties of Northumberland, Lycoming and Luzerne (1811-1833).

Adams Township (1874)

In February, 1874, a petition to the Snyder County Court of Quarter Sessions, from the citizens of Beaver Township, requested the formation of a new township out of Beaver Township. The reason for the petition was based on the size of Beaver Township and upon the difficulties experienced in traveling to the polling places at certain seasons of the year. As was customary, the court appointed a board of viewers consisting of A. K. Gift, Thomas Bauer, and John P. Smith, to pass judgment on the petition and to report its decision at the next term of court. At the May term, a report was made favorable to the petition and an election was ordered by the court to be held to decide the matter. In August, the election was held with 270 persons voting for division and 89 persons voting against it. In accord with the wish of the majority, the new township was formed and received the name of Adams after John Adams, the second president of the United States (1797-1801).

TROXELVILLE is located at the western end of Musser's Valley about five miles north of Beaver Springs and two miles south of Jacks Mountain. The town was founded in 1856, and was named for its founder, John Troxell. The population of Troxelville is approximately one hundred inhabitants, and the number of dwelling houses is thirty-seven. This entire area is an agricultural community, and apparently was settled for that reason. There are no industries in the town and the only places of business are two stores, a post-office, and an automobile service garage. At one time the part of the town east of the small creek which flows in an approximately north-

south direction was called Fredericksburg, having been so named for Frederick Fetterolf, an influential farmer who lived in that section. Each of the two divisions of the town, Fredericksburg and Troxelville, had its own school. The Fredericksburg school was located on the plot of ground between the present Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church and the St. James Lutheran Church. This latter church was recently merged with the St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church to form the Messiah Lutheran Church. The Troxelville school was situated near the place where the present Evangelical Church now stands but on the opposite side of the road.

PORT ANN is a small village, located in Adams Township, about three and one-half miles east of Troxelville on the road to Penns Creek. The village was named after Sara Ann Middleswarth (1824-1895), a woman of great prominence and influence in the community. She was left a widow in 1861, and in the face of great odds, managed to rear very successfully her family of twelve children. The term "Port" came from the family name of another well-known resident of that community by the name of Daniel Port who followed the occupation of stone mason. The large stone house at the east end of the village is one of a number of houses built by this man.

Spring Township (1885)

In September, 1884, a petition signed by citizens of Beaver, West Beaver, and Adams Townships was presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Middleburg requesting the formation of a new township out of portions of the three townships. The reasons given for the formation of a new township were the great distances to be traveled to reach the polling places and to make payment of taxes. A board of viewers was appointed by the court to investigate the practicability of forming such a township. These viewers were William Moyer of Freeburg, John Fields of Kreamer, and S. S. Schoch of Middleburg. This board made its report to the court in December of that year in support of the petition. The court confirmed the report, February, 1885, and decreed that the question should be submitted to the qualified voters residing within the territorial limits out of which the proposed township was to be formed. At the election in April, 1885, 287 votes were cast in favor of the new township and seventy-one votes against it. In line with the expressed wish of the vot-

ers, the court declared the new township formed, and named it "Spring".

There was some disagreement at first among the residents of the new township as to what name it should bear. Among the names frequently suggested were the original name of Beaver Dam, Garfield, after the late President Garfield, and Mingo, the latter referring to "White Mingo" of the Delaware tribe that ruled over that area, and was murdered near the mouth of the Middle Creek, January 10, 1768. THE MIDDLEBURG POST in the issue of May 21, 1885, thought the latter name "very appropriate since none of the political units or even streams of the county had been named after the aborigines. The name Mingo would also be short and easily remembered". It was finally named Spring from the numerous springs in that section. It is estimated that close to a hundred springs can be found in Spring Township alone.

The town of BEAVER SPRINGS is located in Spring Township on the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad, about two miles west of Beavertown, and about one and one-half miles north of Shade Mountain. The town was originally known as Regerstown, after Adam Reger who founded it in 1806, near what was then known as the Beaver Dam, called so because beavers had constructed a large dam north of the site of the present town of Beaver Springs. The term "Springs" was applied because of the numerous springs in that section. Adam Reger, a native of Germany, lived on the land later known as the Samuel Shirey farm, now owned by his son, Frank Shirey, at Beaver Springs. Adam Reger (1749-1826) and his wife, Charlotte Reger (1757-1832), are buried in the Old Cemetery in the town adjoining the public schoolhouse.

Later the town became known as Adamsburg, and finally as Beaver Springs. At what time and for what reason the name Regerstown was replaced by the name Adamsburg is not definitely known. Tradition has it that the name Adamsburg was substituted for Regerstown in honor of a minister by the name of Adams who preached in that community in pioneer days. The town also might have been named after the Christian name of its founder. The town itself finally took the name of Beaver Springs on account of a particularly large and excellent spring in the west end of the town. Another reason for the change in name was the confusion in the mail, due to a town by

the name of Adamsburg in Westmoreland County. In 1832, the town contained twenty-five dwellings, one store, one tavern, and a church; in 1885, the town had a population of about 125 people; in 1900, it had about 500 people; today, its population is approximately 600 people.

THREE RIVERS is the name given to a rural community about four miles directly east of McClure and south of Shade Mountain. It was so named for the three streams, one from Cold Spring Grove, and the others from the north slope of Shade Mountain, joining a short distance east of Felker's schoolhouse, and forming a branch of Middle Creek.

The community of Beavertown and Beaver Springs had a large and varied assortment of industries throughout its history. As early as 1791, Conrad Bopp had a hemp mill near Beavertown and Jacob Hassinger a tannery near Beaver Springs. It is said the tannery was the first industry of Beaver Springs. In fact for many years, the tannery and the iron-ore mines constituted the chief industrial activity of the town. Grist mills, saw-mills, and distilleries were established in the vicinity at an early period. There were also a pottery establishment, a sulphur match factory conducted by Isaac Keller, a hat factory, and a whip factory. In course of time the pottery plant was changed into a tannery operated at first by Banks Dreese, and later by Dr. A. M. Smith and Reuben Fessler. The tannery buildings were removed about the turn of the century and residences and business places were erected on its site. Years ago a paper mill was in operation in Beaver Springs. The mill was operated by water-power, and the paper was made from old rags, since the manufacture of paper from wood-pulp had not yet become known. The plant was operated by Jacob Keller, grandfather of the school teacher, James F. Keller, Esq. About a mile west of the town was the wagon-making establishment of John Shambach. In this shop were made the woodwork of wagons, buggies, grain drills, shakers for threshing machines, one-horse hay-rakes with wooden teeth, harrows, and cultivators. A gun-smith shop, operated by Joseph Long, was located about a mile north-west of the town.

William Spangler had a coachmaker shop in Adamsburg in 1876. Hurley Romig conducted a coachmaking shop for about a year, and then the buildings were destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. The later industries and

business interests of Beaver Springs were equally varied. Coachmaking was carried on for a time. In 1894 a creamery was established, manufacturing as high as four tons of butter monthly. The creamery proved a great benefit to the farmers of the community because it provided a ready market for their butter at prices much higher than the local market could possibly provide. Bricks were manufactured. The bricks of the Reformed Church were locally manufactured. The First National Bank was opened May, 1901.

The Klingler's Wagon Factory was established in 1902. It manufactured two and four-horse wagons and spring-wagons. It supplied the wagons for many farmers over a large area of territory, and employed from twelve to twenty men the year round. It was located in a portion of the town locally known as Harrisonville. As early as 1900, the town organized a Board of Trade for the purpose of promoting the industrial interest of the town and community. The Board offered "free land sites and other inducements to industrial concerns that would locate at Beaver Springs". The Klingler Wagon Factory was established at Beaver Springs in response to this offer. There were extensive ore-mines in the vicinity, and for the transportation of the iron-ore from the mines to the station, a branch railroad was built. The Beaver Springs Water and Light Companies were organized in 1904. The light plant was operated by water power from a stream from Shade Mountain. Since 1921 the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company has furnished the electricity for the town. The first automobile owned and operated by a resident of Beaver Springs was purchased by Samuel F. Aurand in August, 1906. It was a two-seated locomobile steamer.

Adamsburg celebrated its centennial on September 6, 7, 8, 1906, with appropriate exercises extending over a period of three days, held in Dr. A. M. Smith's grove located west of the town. The celebration consisted of a reunion of former residents, historical addresses, church reunions, a monster parade representing the present business interests and industries of the town, secret organizations, and several bands. An attractive feature of the parade was the part taken by thirty-five farmers, each one driving a team of horses hitched to a certain type of farm machinery representing the old-time and the modern methods of farming. Special passenger trains

were run on the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad during the three days of the celebration.

MIDDLECREEK is a small village in the township. It has a postoffice dating back to the year 1838. BENFER is a small village located on the road from Beaver Springs to Troxelville. It was named for the Benfer family, and had a post-office from 1898 to 1940.

The Forced Landing of Will Rogers Near the Beaver Vocational School

In November, 1927, Will Rogers attempted his first trans-continental flight from San Francisco to New York as a reporter and advocate of commercial flying, but was forced down in Snyder County. Will Rogers was a pioneer aviation enthusiast and used the early mail planes, at times riding on mail sacks, since passenger space was not available at that time. On this particular trip, he had made a bet with one of his friends that he could fly from coast to coast and back again by the time his friend had made the trip one way.

Everything appeared to be progressing nicely on the trip until they reached the Allegheny Mountains when storms were encountered, where fogs encompassed them, rains drenched them, and air-pockets dropped them. Upon reaching Bellefonte, a new pilot by the name of Thomas Nelson took charge of the plane for the last lap of the flight. Upon leaving Bellefonte, the aviator became lost in the clouds and the rain, and got about thirty miles off his course. He flew from Troxelville to Beaver Springs in repeated circles, unable to get his bearings on account of the poor visibility caused by the rain, clouds, fog, and haze. Otto H. Wagner, living on a farm east of Beaver Springs, observed that the pilot was in distress and seeking a landing place, attempted to signal him to land on the elevation directly south of the Beaver Vocational School building but the pilot failed to notice the signal. He finally succeeded in getting the plane under control, and landed instead in a wheat-stubble field east of the school building on the Ira C. Gross farm. Because of the heavy rains for the days past, the ground was very soft causing the plane to mire deeply upon landing, but it escaped damage. Ira C. Gross and his farm hand, Lawrence Dobson, also noticed the plane circling low over the schoolhouse, and finally saw it land. They were the

first persons to arrive just as Will Rogers was emerging from it. Soon quite a crowd of people were attracted to the place, but no one appeared to recognize either one of the occupants. The passenger made a request for some one to take him to the nearest station of a main-line railroad to board a train for New York. Mr. Wagner offered to take him by automobile to Lewistown. While waiting in the Wagner home until the necessary preparations for the trip had been completed, the passenger kept pacing back and forth in the kitchen presumably very nervous on account of his narrow escape from death. While Mrs. Wagner was busily engaged in preparing the evening meal, he walked over to the kitchen stove, lifted the lids on several frying pans and looked at the contents, and then remarked to Mrs. Wagner "that the food sure looked good and wished that he could stay for the meal". It was at this moment that he introduced himself as Will Rogers. Mr. Wagner took him to the Lewistown Junction where he made train reservations, then brought him back to the Western Union Telegraph office on Monument Square where he sent a telegram to his wife saying that he was safe, and from there he went to Shirey's Hotel for lunch. It was at this time that he told Mr. Wagner that at some future time he was going to make a trip to Beaver Springs incognito, and loaf and visit in the country stores, eat cheese and crackers, and become acquainted with the "Dutch". After the lunch, Wagner took him back to the Junction where Rogers boarded the train for New York.

In the meantime Mr. Lawrence Dobson, the farm hand of Mr. Ira C. Gross, was hired to guard the plane and mail while telephone contact was made with Bellefonte and the Sunbury Post Office. Mr. Ira C. Gross and the pilot then loaded the nine hundred pounds of mail on Mr. Gross' truck and delivered the mail at the Sunbury Post Office. Mr. Nelson stayed over-night in the Gross' home, and the next day officers from the Bellefonte air-port arrived, with the help of local people, they turned the plane around, and Nelson took off for Newark, New Jersey.

The following is Will Roger's own account of the forced landing as recorded in the SATURDAY EVENING POST for January 28, 1928:

The storm got worse and so did I. The pilot took to the south, thirty miles off the course, and I took to leaning

out and spraying the rain-soaked country, that is, when I wasn't throwing up my insides outside the mailbags. Soon we saw there was no further going anywhere. I knew we were turning and twisting around a great deal; you couldn't see anything or tell anything up there. Then I noticed the pilot dropped down into a valley, a kind of low, narrow valley, and started circling it. I knew then that he was looking for a place to light. It was pretty hilly. There were lots of prosperous old farmhouses but very few fields of any length. Everything was cut up with fences.

Finally he circled one place three or four times very low and got the exact lay of the land. It was raining hard now and getting pretty late—almost dark. He finally reached a decision, made his last circle, and dropped low, just missed the top of one fence so he could light as soon after passing it as possible, and he set her down. It had been raining three days steady and the ground was very soft. This helped to slow him up. He had a big load too. Then the ground was kinder up-hill. He made as fine a landing as you could make at Mitchell Field, and stopped her a few yards from a wire fence.

The pilot started over toward the nearest farmhouse. People that hadn't ventured out in the rain in three days came over into the field where we had landed. They all were mighty pleasant and nice, and wanted to do anything they could. The wheels were way down in the mud, and he said that he didn't think he could take off and get out of there anyway, so he advised me, if I were in a hurry, to go to the nearest railroad and go to New York.

While the farmer was getting ready to take me to town I went back into the kitchen by the stove. They were just getting supper ready. I never saw as many things cooking at once. Believe me, those people sure do live back there. It was an old brick farmhouse over 100 years old, and the barn even older than that. Those things cooking did smell good, but my eating was over for that trip. I could still feel that aeroplane dropping out from under me.

On the way in I asked him how they farmed and what they raised, and how much the land was worth, and then I asked him if there were any Pennsylvania Dutch around there; that I had always heard of them and wanted to see some. It would have been like him landing in Oklahoma accidentally, and wanting to see some Indians. He said that all that were around the plane were of that breed. I said they looked alright, and they talked pretty good English, that is, as well as I could judge. He said "I am one of them". Well, here I was with a Pennsylvania Dutchman and didn't know it. He told me the old-timers do talk their language yet. They are a great people and I liked the way they live. I want to stop in there and stay awhile again sometime when I am feeling better.

NOTE:

Will Rogers died near Pt. Barrow, Alaska, August 15, 1935, when he and Wiley Post were on a journey of good will. Thomas Nelson lost his life in a snowstorm in Ohio. He became lost on a westward flight, missing Pittsburgh, and crashed in a ravine in Eastern Ohio.

Selected Readings

Kratzerville — One Hundredth's Anniversary

Purdy, Truman — Legends of the Susquehanna

Records of the Court of Quarter Sessions (Sunbury,
Lewisburg, Middleburg)

Snyder, Charles F. — Township Names of Old Northum-
berland County — their Organization
and Meaning

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ciety Proceedings Vol. 8

Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys. Vols. 1 and 2

CHAPTER 5.

The Political Divisions of the County—Boroughs

The punishment suffered by the wise who refuse to take part in the government, is to live under the government of bad men.

Plato

The first General Borough Act of 1834, provided that the Court of Quarter Sessions with the concurrence of the Grand Jury, had the power to incorporate into a borough a village or town located within its jurisdiction and containing not less than 300 inhabitants. The residents who were privileged to vote for members of the General Assembly, who had resided in the district for at least six months, and who were taxpayers, were privileged to vote for borough officers. The elective borough officers were the burgess, five members of the town council, two overseers of the poor, and one constable. The borough council was empowered to pass ordinances and by-laws for the good of the borough, maintain peace and order, repair streets, levy taxes, appoint a town clerk, treasurer, two street commissioners, and one tax collector. This act as such continued until 1851 when a new borough law was enacted. The new act empowered either the General Assembly or the Court of Quarter Sessions to incorporate any town or village into a borough. Incorporated towns were to have the power to pass ordinances, lay out streets, look after grading, curbing, and paving, levy and collect taxes, borrow money, set forth the amount and method of increasing the bonded indebtedness, make provision for common schools, and provide for the election of the proper officers and prescribe their duties.

The act of 1851 is the basic foundation of the General Borough Law in operation at the present day. The supplements and reenactments of 1915 and 1927 revised, amended, and consolidated the law of 1851, but in the main were more or less of a minor nature. Fundamentally, borough government today is the same as it was a century ago. In line with the provisions of the act of 1851 with its supplements, there have been formed in our county at different times five boroughs. They are Selinsgrove (1853), Middleburg (1864), Beavertown (1914), Freeburg (1920), Shamokin Dam (1927). The history of each of these five boroughs will now be given in the order of the time of their incorporation.

SELINSGROVE

About six miles south of the forks of the Susquehanna River, and about fifty miles north of Harrisburg, on the west bank of the Susquehanna River, in a beautiful valley, is located the borough of Selinsgrove. The town is surrounded on all sides by towering hills. The view of the town from the reservoir hill, west of the town, is rather unusual. On the east is the Susquehanna River, about one mile wide, with its many beautiful islands and the foothills of Mahanoy Mountain; on the south, Mahanoy Mountain; on the west, Shade Mountain; and to the north, the Shamokin Mountains. Flowing parallel to the river is Penn's Creek, with its source in the picturesque Penn's Cave, fifty miles to the west in Centre County. The creek divides the town into the Isle of Que and the town proper. Selinsgrove is rich in colonial history, and was one of the frontier outposts of the colony. The town is the metropolis of Snyder County.

The Isle of Que holds a prominent place in the early history of the community. Originally the main part of the town was located on the Isle of Que. In its early days, the river front was the business center of the town, since the principal means of transportation was by boat and raft. The river was the main highway of transportation before the days of roads and the canal. Later, when the road was opened between Harrisburg and Northumberland for the stagecoach, and when the Pennsylvania Canal was built, the business interests shifted away from the river to the canal and the road. Because of the river and the canal, Selinsgrove became the terminal market place for practically the entire county.

Selinsgrove, throughout its history, has been known by a succession of different names. It was originally called Gabriel's after George Gabriel, a trader who lived at the old mouth of Penn's Creek as early as 1745. The place a little later became known as Snyder's after John Snyder and his younger brother, Simon Snyder, who were large property owners in the place. The part of Selinsgrove lying south of the present Community Center building was known as Weiserburg; the portion lying north was called Selinsgrove. The northern part of the Isle of Que was called Charlestown or Drumstown. Following the American Revolution, Major Anthony Selin came to this place, married Catherine Snyder, a sister of the Snyder brothers, and bought the tract of land at a public sale in

Sunbury. The town then assumed the name of Selinsgrove because the tract owned by Anthony Selin was a grove of towering pines, hence the name Selin's grove or Selinsgrove.

The Ownership of the Land

The Isle of Que and the adjoining land were obtained by Conrad Weiser and Richard Peters for services rendered to the Province of Pennsylvania as intermediaries between it and the Indians in bringing about the Albany Purchase and in fixing the boundary lines during the days of the Inter-Colonial Wars (1689-1763). By the provisions of the Albany Treaty of 1754, a portion of this area of the province was transferred to the white settlers, which transaction later proved to be the source of much friction, and ultimately the shedding of blood. The land on the Isle of Que and in the immediate vicinity was very dear to the Indians because of the burial place on the lower end of the island and because of the good hunting and fishing this region afforded them. Conrad Weiser and Richard Peters, in becoming the owners of much of this land, in some way incurred the ill-will of the Indians. Whether right or wrong, the Indians evidently felt themselves treated unjustly both as to the extent of the purchase and the way the transaction was brought about. To say the least, it caused the Indians to lose confidence for a while in Conrad Weiser. So long as Shikellamy lived, however, comparative peace prevailed but after his death, in 1748, matters soon took a turn for the worse. Indians blamed the settlers for taking possession of the land without purchase or permission. Only too often the whites extended the friendly right hand but grabbed everything in sight with the left hand. In other words, the white man often professed to be friendly in order to get what he wanted.

Not only did Conrad Weiser own the Isle of Que, but in addition, many hundreds of acres of land west of it from the mouth of the Middle Creek to the former mouth of Penn's Creek at the head of the Isle of Que. Some of Weiser's children lived in what is now Selinsgrove and vicinity. The grant of land referred to above included 2,000 acres on the west side of the Susquehanna River that were given to each of the two men. Subsequent events have proved that this granting of land and its acceptance by Weiser and Peters were decidedly indiscreet to say the least. Weiser and Peters evidently did not

use good judgment in receiving it nor did the Provincial Government in granting it. The land, however, was not surveyed until 1762, showing that there must have been considerable opposition on the part of the Indians. In that year, 676 acres were surveyed on the Isle of Que, and 756 acres on the mainland, extending from where Sassafras Street is now located southward to Middle Creek. This tract was for Conrad Weiser's heirs. The northern portion of this tract was laid out by Conrad Weiser, the grandson of the interpreter, and became known as Weiserburg. From an old deed dated 1792, the land north of this tract had also been granted to Conrad Weiser's heirs. This extended northward along what since has become known as Market Street. This means that all the land on which the present town of Selinsgrove is located was originally owned by the heirs of Conrad Weiser, the Indian interpreter. Conrad Weiser, the son of the interpreter, moved from Tulpehocken to Selinsgrove. He is buried in the Old Lutheran Cemetery. The grave is located in the southeast corner, but the marker disappeared some years ago. Conrad Weiser, the grandson of the interpreter, died in Weiserburg in 1803. Much of this land soon passed into the possession of other settlers in this area. John Adam Fisher and Jacob Adam Fisher purchased the lower part of the Isle of Que from the heirs of Conrad Weiser. Benjamin Weiser, a son of the interpreter, lived on land north of the Fisher estates. Jacob Adam Fisher was probably the first white man to live on the Isle of Que since he came to this locality with Conrad Weiser in 1754 and constructed a log cabin on it. It ought to be recalled here that John Snyder (1755-1787), a brother of Governor Simon Snyder, was also an early settler and a large landowner on the Isle of Que. Shortly after the Revolutionary War, the area north of the old road was laid out in lots by him. In some respects, John Snyder can be called the original founder of Selinsgrove. Just when he laid out the area in lots, we cannot tell since the early records do not mention the year nor even the name given to the town, but it must have been about 1784.

When John Snyder's estate became insolvent, the property was disposed of at an administrator's sale held in Sunbury, and all the land on the west side of Penn's Creek and north of the Weiser tract was purchased by Anthony Selin. He re-surveyed the land, laid it out in

town lots once more, effected a union of the two towns of Charlestown and Weiserburg, and named the place after himself. A re-survey appeared to be necessary because the original survey of plots didn't correspond with the actual situation of the land. Anthony Selin can be regarded as the founder of Selinsgrove in 1785. The writing of the name either Selin's Grove or Selinsgrove was followed more or less interchangeably by many people until, August 29, 1894, when the United States Post Office Department officially declared that the name should be written as one word and without the possessive form. This step was probably taken by the government for the sake of uniformity and simplicity in writing and spelling proper names.

Anthony Selin, the Founder of Selinsgrove

A few facts about the life of Anthony Selin will be in order. Anthony Selin was a native of Switzerland, a Roman Catholic, a Swiss soldier by profession, and a veteran of many European battlefields. Of the date and place of his birth, nothing definite appears to be known. He came to America in company with such patriots as Lafayette, Von Steuben, Count Pulaski, and Kosciusko, to aid the colonists in their struggle for independence. This act of patriotism was fully in harmony with the adventurous spirit of the man. He is described as a tall, dark-eyed, and dark-skinned youth. Upon his arrival in America, December 5, 1776, he was commissioned a captain in the Continental Army, December 10, 1776, and fought in the Battle of Brandywine. Later he was among the patriots encamped at Valley Forge during the terrible winter of 1777-1778. On January 20, 1777, the Continental Congress organized two regiments of Canadian troops of which Captain Selin was made the major of the second regiment. This was accomplished at a time when much hope prevailed that Canada would ultimately join in the revolt against England. While this hope was never realized, nevertheless, the two regiments of Canadian troops served the cause of the colonies throughout the war. Anthony Selin served under Washington in the victorious Trenton-Princeton campaign when that famous surprise attack was launched upon the British, resulting in two major victories, and the taking of many prisoners of war.

Later Anthony Selin served in General Sullivan's expedition against the Iroquois Indians of Western New

York who had been exceptionally active in making predatory expeditions against the frontier towns along the Susquehanna and Lackawanna Rivers in Pennsylvania and New York. He served in the Continental army until the close of the war. Anthony Selin must have been financially able, as well as a patriotic soldier, or else he could not have advanced \$50,000 in gold to Robert Morris during the darkest days of the American Revolution, to help to meet the expenses of the war. It is to his everlasting credit that neither Anthony Selin nor any of his descendants ever made any effort to recover this amount of money from the National Government.

Anthony Selin resigned his commission in the Continental Army, January 1, 1783, and then came to the Susquehanna Valley as a place of residence. He married Catherine Snyder, the sister of John and Simon Snyder. They lived on a farm adjoining the northern part of Selinsgrove. Anthony Selin and Simon Snyder were very intimate friends and conducted a store and milling business in partnership. When Simon Snyder, John Miller, and Martin Kendig, the administrators of the estate of John Snyder, sold the estate, Anthony Selin, John Snyder's brother-in-law, was the purchaser. The sale was held at Sunbury, the county-seat of Northumberland County. The charges were made that Selin's conduct at the sale prevented others from bidding, and hence he succeeded in buying the property at a greatly reduced price. These charges led to litigation that continued over a number of years. Anthony Selin opened the first hotel in Selinsgrove in the year 1784 on the site of what is now known as the Farmers' Hotel on South Market Street.

Anthony Selin had two children, Charles Anthony and Agnes Selin. There is no evidence that Anthony Selin endeavored to have his children embrace the Catholic faith. It is significant that Agnes Selin was sent to the Moravian School at Bethlehem, the religion of the mother being that faith. Charles Anthony was baptized in the Roman Catholic faith, September 19, 1791, in the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Philadelphia. Charles Anthony Selin died in Selinsgrove (1789-1825) without leaving any descendants.

Agnes Selin (1791-1824) was married to James K. Davis, Sr., and some of the descendants are still living in the town. Upon the death of Anthony Selin in 1792,

from chills and fevers, at his home in Selinsgrove, Captain Frederick Evans was appointed the guardian of the two children by the Northumberland County Courts. Captain Evans soon found himself involved in a lawsuit instituted by the heirs of "Black John" Snyder, and by the former wife of John Snyder and her second husband, Martin Kendig, as to the legal title of the land purchased by Anthony Selin at the sale of the Snyder property at Sunbury. Anthony Selin is buried in the family plot of the Snyder's in the New Lutheran Cemetery in Selinsgrove. A plain simple shaft, decorated with a flag placed by the local Conrad Weiser Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution marks his grave.

Upon the death of Major Anthony Selin, February, 1792, the widow, Catherine Snyder Selin, John Snyder, Jr., nephew of the governor, and Christopher Derring, were the executors of his estate. When Rubin "Buck" Claflin, who had been in the employ of John Snyder, took up his residence in Ohio, he represented his employer in looking after Anthony Selin's lands in the vicinity of Marietta. In the settlement of the estate, the affairs appear to have been so mismanaged that in the end, Selin's two children, Charles Anthony Selin and Agnes Selin, received practically nothing. It is said the Honorable George Kremer provided for them until they had attained their majority.

Anthony Selin became a member of the patriotic Society of the Cincinnati, January 2, 1784. He received a certificate of membership signed by its president, Geo. Washington, and by its secretary, Henry Knox. This certificate was formerly in the possession of William M. Schnure of Selinsgrove, a descendant of Anthony Selin, but is now in the State Library at Harrisburg. The order of the Cincinnati is a patriotic organization composed originally of the officers of the Continental Army who had served at least three years or until the close of the Revolutionary War. Its chief object was to preserve the memories of the struggle for liberty and to maintain the bonds of brotherhood that had been formed among the officers during those many years of conflict. This object was to be accomplished through meetings of the organization at intervals every few years. It also made provision for the care of the widows and orphans of these officers and their descendants. To make this latter purpose possible, each officer donated a month's pay to provide the necessary funds. To insure the permanency of

this patriotic society, upon the death of a member, his oldest son or next male heir, succeeded him to membership.

This order of the Cincinnati was named after the famous Roman who left his farm to lead his countrymen to victory, and when the victory had been achieved, laid down his arms and returned home to the quiet scenes of his private life again. Washington did precisely the same thing after winning the independence of the thirteen original colonies. The membership of the organization contained many of the most distinguished men of the Revolutionary Era. Washington was its first president, serving until his death in 1799, and Henry Knox served as secretary. The organization met with much opposition and criticism in its beginning largely on account of its hereditary memberships. Men like Jefferson, Adams, and Jay opposed it on the grounds that the society was simply a scheme to perpetuate a military aristocracy in America.

Sale of the Town Lots by Lottery

The manner of disposing the town lots employed by Anthony Selin was through the sale of lottery tickets. Disposing of property or the raising of money by means of a lottery appears to have been a common practice in the early days. To relieve people of burdensome taxation, lotteries were instituted by special acts of the legislature for church, charity, public enterprises, and for speculation. This plan of raising money always met with considerable opposition so long as the Quaker Government was in power. Many laws were enacted to suppress lotteries. In 1682, at the first meeting of the Assembly at Chester, an act was passed condemning cards, dice, and lotteries, but the act was promptly annulled by the English Government. A law was passed in 1762 declaring "all lotteries common and public nuisances, and against the common good and welfare of the province, under penalty of 500 pounds".

Despite the opposition to lotteries, provisions were made to have them in special cases through special legislation. Lotteries were employed by private individuals as well as by corporate bodies such as boroughs, cities, counties, and townships, to purchase grounds and to provide for the erection of schools and churches, pay debts, repair buildings, purchase burial grounds, build canals,

construct the water supply of towns and cities, pay the soldiers of the French and Indian War, provide funds for road construction, and to raise money for the erection of wharves and piers on certain rivers. It must be said that when Anthony Selin decided to dispose of his town lots by lottery, he simply made use of a practice that met with considerable social sanction in his day. The lottery sale of the newly-surveyed town lots was conducted in the year 1790.

The First House in Selinsgrove

The first house in Selinsgrove of which there is any record was located in the new expansion northward and on the west side of the creek. It was built by a clock-maker by the name of John Kern. It was originally a log building with a large stone chimney on the outside. This house stood until 1870 on the south side of what is now known as Pine Street, about midway between Market and Water Streets, on the corner of Pine Street and Strawberry Alley, on the site of the former Albert B. Keck home. It is believed that a part of this first house still remains as a portion of the Keck property. The house on the corner of Front and Pine Streets was known as the Black Horse Tavern, and is considered among the oldest houses of the borough. The first place of business was a tavern operated by Anthony Selin in 1784. It stood on the site of the present Farmer's Hotel.

The Growth of Selinsgrove

Selinsgrove, in 1796, had ten houses and a population of sixty-five inhabitants. In 1820, the population, including Penn Township, was 2099; in 1830, it was 2304; in 1840, it was 2280; and in 1850, it was 2736. The census of 1860 gives the borough a population of 1261, and the census of 1940, a population of 2877. Rupp's History, published in 1847, states that Selinsgrove contained about one hundred houses, five or six stores, several taverns, and one church. A large public road extended at first along the river through the town and proved to be a great thoroughfare between Harrisburg and Northumberland as well as between the northern and the southern counties of the state. The building of the Pennsylvania Canal in 1830 and the construction of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad in 1871 brought increased business and a marked growth in the population. Selinsgrove served as the marketplace for the county. The aband-

onment of the canal during the last decade of the last century proved a severe blow to the town. In a way the railroad hindered Selinsgrove since many small towns sprang up along its route, and general stores became established throughout the county. Formerly the people of the county traded in Selinsgrove but these changes in transportation made it possible for them to do their trading in their own home community. Selinsgrove had many business interests during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The records indicate the existence of a grist mill, a saw mill, fulling mill, and wagon-making, chair-making, and comb-making factories.

A century later Selinsgrove had several shoe factories;* the Brown Manufacturing Company on North Market Street near the Pennsylvania Railroad, engaged in the manufacturing of paper boxes for the shipping of goods; the Daniel G. Schucker Shirt Factory on Water and Walnut Streets, equipped with electrically-driven machinery, employing from twenty-five to forty women, and producing more than 250 dozen shirts per week; the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Electric Railway in full operation; and the William F. Groce Silk Spinning Mill on Sassafras Street employed about eighty persons. Selinsgrove had a number of planing mills and sash factories in operation over this period of time, John F. Klingler operated such a mill on North Water Street. This mill was succeeded by the Selinsgrove Lumber Company, and in 1929 by the Bogar Lumber Company. The J. G. Ott Packagings Plant on North Water Street has been engaged in the manufacture of a large and varied assortment of paper boxes since the close of World War I for the packaging of dry goods and various kinds of merchandise.

The borough was lighted with electricity furnished by the hydroelectric power-house located about two miles south of the town along the Middle Creek, and the borough was supplied with water pumped from Penn's Creek into a concrete sedimentation basin (one million gallon capacity) where the water was purified and then pumped into a concrete reservoir, located on the hill west of the town (one and one-fifth million gallon capacity); an auto bus line, making one round trip daily between Selinsgrove and Richfield, a distance of twelve miles; and another bus line making two round trips daily between Selinsgrove and McKees Half Falls, a distance of nine miles.

*See Chapter 15

Selinsgrove Becomes a Borough

On April 13, 1827, by a special act of the State Legislature, Selinsgrove was made a borough, but the inhabitants of Penn Township opposed it so vigorously that the act was repealed, January 11, 1828. Before the incorporation of the borough, it was necessary for the voters to go to Rowe's Church (Salem) to vote. This was the cause of considerable dissatisfaction on the part of the residents of the town. It was not until September 24, 1853, that Selinsgrove was decreed once more a borough by action of the Court of Union County under the general provision of the State Borough Law. At the time of its incorporation into a borough, the boundary line of the town extended as far north as the Reformed Church on Mill Street and south to the present residence of Frank A. Eyer, and on the west to the college campus. The first burgess of Selinsgrove was George Schnure.

The part of the town from Mill Street northward to the Penn's Creek bridge (Red Bridge) was formerly called "Sweet Hope". There has been considerable speculation about the origin of the name. Legend has provided two rather fascinating explanations. One story is that it was named that way by old Henry App who was the proprietor of a general store in that part of the town. It appears that that portion of Selinsgrove was then evidently living in the "hope" of prosperity and thereby received in consequence this endearing name. George Marks, a present-day resident of Selinsgrove, gives a different version of the origin of the name. According to his version, the name is associated with a young Selinsgrove lover who referred to his lady friend living in that section as his "Sweet Hope". Whenever his friends would accost him as to where he was going in his journeys northward in the evening, he usually replied that he was on the way to see his "Sweet Hope". In course of time, the name given to the girl by her lover became attached to her place of residence. This extreme northern part of Selinsgrove today was at the time a small village of its own, more or less separate from the main part of the town. The name "Sweet Hope" for that portion of the borough has persisted throughout the years. It is not uncommon for the older present-day residents to refer to this part of the borough as "Sweet Hope".

The Zimmerman Air-port on the Isle of Que

On Saturday evening, May 5, 1928, a large mono-

plane traveling from Madison, Wisconsin, to New York City, came to a forced landing in a field on the farm of Samuel App, about two miles from Selinsgrove, in Monroe Township. The cause of the forced landing was a heavy electrical storm, poor visibility, and a leaking oil pipe-line of the engine. The persons occupying the plane were the pilot, two newspaper men, the owner of the plane, and the Honorable Fred R. Zimmerman, Governor of Wisconsin. The party was enroute to New York City to greet the Bremen fliers who were the first to make a non-stop flight westward across the Atlantic, and to invite them to come to Wisconsin as the guests of the State. The reason for such a special invitation was the fact that a majority of the people of Wisconsin traced their ancestry back to Germany, and thus the invitation appeared to be the natural thing under the circumstances.

The unfortunate travelers were brought to the Sterner Hotel, now the Governor Snyder, as guests for the night. The news of what happened spread rapidly over the town, and soon a large crowd of people, made up of town folks, students of the University, and the usual Saturday night throng from neighboring villages and rural communities had assembled in front of the hotel to give an enthusiastic welcome to their unannounced but distinguished Saturday night guest. The Moose Band furnished the music and the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Company paraded the streets with their fire-fighting apparatus. The Governor spoke briefly to the assembled crowd from the hotel steps, expressing his appreciation of the hospitality of the community. He declared:

In all my political life I have never been accorded so great a spontaneous welcome. Within a half hour from the time I reached your town unexpectedly, you people have turned out your fire-fighting apparatus, and your band appears in uniform to greet me. Really you Snyder County people are marvelous. I cannot understand how you have done so much so quickly.

In the course of the evening Governor Zimmerman expressed the opinion that a landing field for airships was one of the needs of Selinsgrove. In fact such a field had often been anticipated by the citizens but unfortunately not yet realized.

This remark seemed to make the time ripe for a beginning. It was then and there agreed to open a field on

the Burns and McFall tract on the Isle of Que providing the Governor would be willing to break ground for it. Before leaving Selinsgrove the next day, a delegation of citizens showed the Governor and his party the sights of the town, and then took them to the Isle of Que where the Governor obligingly spaded up the first soil for the Selinsgrove landing field. Then the party returned to the App farm and flew the plane to the emergency landing field on Packer's Island (Island Park) for the needed repairs. The party left Island Park in the middle of the afternoon for New York, landed on Mitchell Field, Long Island, then motored to the Ritz Hotel, where they greeted the trans-Atlantic fliers.

The Selinsgrove Air-port was dedicated in a three-day celebration, August 23, 24, 25, 1928, and officially named the Zimmerman Airport, after the Governor of Wisconsin. The affair attracted the largest crowd for many years. The spectacular performances by fliers, the enactment of difficult flight maneuvers, and the exhibition flights of numerous planes provided thrills for the crowds. Appropriate addresses were given by Philip H. Dewey, Past Master and Lecturer of the State Grange, and by Edwin M. Beers, Congressman of the eighteenth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. A banquet was tendered the fliers and to other guests at Susquehanna University by the people of the town and community as an expression of appreciation for their contribution to the occasion. Unfortunately, for various reasons, the local air-port was never developed.

Middleburg

Middleburg is the county-seat of Snyder County. The town is centrally located in the county. This is probably the chief reason for its selection as the county-seat in two spirited election contests. The circumstances which led to its selection as the seat of government have already been given and need not be repeated here. The town lies in the heart of Middle Creek Valley which abounds in fertile soil and is populated by sturdy and prosperous farmers. Middleburg is about twelve miles west of Selinsgrove and eighteen miles from the extreme west end of the county. It is about thirty-two miles east of Lewistown, sixty miles from Harrisburg, about the same distance from Williamsport, and about 175 miles from Philadelphia.

The town was laid out about the year 1800 on the north side of Middle Creek on the land of John Albright Swineford (1728-1810), and for many years was known as Swinefordtown (Swinefordstetle). About 1825 its name was changed to Middleburg because of its location on Middle Creek and near the middle of what was then known as Centre Township. Franklin Township was not organized until 1853. Swineford was a German by birth and became a large landowner in this neighborhood. He was buried in the Swineford Cemetery. On his tombstone is this inscription:

Hier ruhet Albrecht Schweinforth, er is geborenden
16 Februar in yohr Christii 1728 and gestorben Oct 15, 1810.

Years later his body, among others, was exhumed and interred in the Glendale Cemetery in Middleburg. The survey of the original 105 town lots was made by Frederick Evans, a man of much prominence in that day, and the father-in-law of Hon. George Kremer, Congressman from the District. At the time the town was laid out, three or four houses had already been erected, and as early as 1787 John Albright Swineford had a tavern at the place. The town lots were sold subject to ground rent of one dollar per year, forever. This ground rent was the price that had to be paid annually for the right to occupy the land and to improve it. Just when this encumbrance was removed from all the lots is unknown but it was no longer in existence in 1885.

In 1801 a number of the original lots were sold. Michael Wittenmyer, a clock-maker by trade and the father of Samuel Wittenmyer (1808-1901), bought a lot from John Albright Swineford, the owner of the town, for a twenty-four hour clock. It is said that Wittenmyer had the cellar almost excavated when Swineford counselled him to purchase the corner lot (store corner) and then erect a good building on it. When Wittenmyer replied that he couldn't afford to purchase such an expensive lot, Swineford thereupon agreed to affect an exchange of the lots providing Wittenmyer would make him an eight-day clock. It is said the offer was accepted and the erection of a building was immediately begun. This was in 1801 so that the town must have been laid out already at that time. A house stood on the corner (bank lot) owned by a Mr. Benheimer who kept a store. Another house stood back of the town on the road to New Berlin. There may have been other houses but tradition

has left no record of them. The Swineford tavern, the first one in this section, was located at the forks of the road on East Market Street. In 1814 there were listed sixty-five residents of the town.

Middleburg was originally a part of Penn Township. in 1804, upon the organization of Centre Township, it became part of that township and continued so until the erection of Franklin Township in 1853. From that year on, it was a part of the township until its incorporation as a borough in 1864. As a part of Penn Township, Middleburg at this early time was one of the voting places of the township. The election returns for 1802 show that 129 votes were cast for the Hon. Samuel Maclay for State Senator.

For many years that portion of Middleburg on the south side of Middle Creek and opposite the town of Middleburg proper, was known by the name of Franklin. This original name is still perpetuated by the Franklin Roller Mills. In 1860 the only buildings found on the site were a large stone house and the farm buildings of the George Kremer homestead, an old stone grist mill, and the ruins of an old oil-mill. Upon the completion of the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad, the town was laid out in lots and building operations begun. The Middleburg Station of the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad was located there. The town became known as Swineford. In 1885 its population was approximately 200. It had no church yet and the residents worshipped in the Middleburg churches. Up to 1871 the town did not have a store. In that year, the first store in Swineford was opened by Isaac Beaver. Other business interests in Swineford at this early day were a coal-yard and grain elevator, hotel, store and tinware shop, grist mill and saw-mill.

On January 27, 1917, the property owners of Swineford petitioned the Town Council of Middleburg to annex Swineford to the borough of Middleburg. The borough council unanimously passed an ordinance to annex Swineford to the Middleburg Borough. The Chief Burgess approved the ordinance, February 13, 1917, thus uniting the entire town on both sides of the creek into one borough. Middleburg had 531 inhabitants in 1910, and in 1940, a population of 1124. Middleburg is a unique borough in that it has two post-offices (Swineford and Middleburg), and two First National Banks (Swineford and Middleburg). So long as each of the two towns existed

as a separate political unit, each one had its own post-office and bank. When the two towns became united into one borough in 1917, each town nevertheless continued its own post-office and bank.

The first postoffice in Middleburg was established in 1811 and Michael Wittenmyer was the first postmaster, serving fifteen years (1811-1826). During the years of the Civil War, letter-boxes were introduced. Prior to that time, the post-office was in the bar-room of the Black-Horse Tavern, and the citizens' mail was delivered from a large drawer beneath the bar.

In 1914 Middleburg had a shoe-factory, tannery, shirt factory, two telephone lines, an electric light plant, and water works. In 1945 it had a planing mill, cannery, dress factory and a bakery.

Beavertown

Beavertown is situated in Middle Creek Valley, one mile north of Shade Mountain, on the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad. The town was laid out in the year 1810 by Jacob Lechner. The land was originally owned by John Swift, dating back to 1760, and sold later to Jacob Lechner. Lechner employed Frederick Evans to survey the town lots, and named the place Swifttown in honor of the original owner of the land. Later the town was named Beavertown because beavers had a dam in Swift Run in that locality. At the time of the survey, several log houses had already been constructed. The first house built after the survey had been completed was located on the northeast corner of Market and Sassafras Streets. It was built by a man by the name of John Rush. In 1812 J. C. Weiser started a store and hotel in the place and continued the business until 1823. Soon afterwards other houses were built. In 1813 John Cummings was appointed Justice of the Peace and continued in that office for ten years. In 1831 he was elected sheriff of Union County, and in 1834 was succeeded by his son, John Cummings, Jr., popularly known as Jack Cummings. Jack Cummings was a prominent Democratic politician and was elected a member of the General Assembly in 1871 from the district composed of Lycoming, Union, and Snyder Counties.

As early as 1817 the inhabitants of Beavertown followed the occupations that were common in those days. As early as 1840 there was a foundry in Beavertown, con-

ducted by Moses Specht and Company. In 1871 a large tannery was in operation. In the eighties, large quantities of iron-ore and lumber and prop-timber were shipped from the local railroad station. In 1907 Beavertown had two planing mills, a tannery, shirt factory, two carriage factories, a foundry, and other industries. The town is the home of the Beavertown Mutual Fire Insurance Company, organized, November, 1879, and of the Mutual Protective Association, a fraternal insurance company. The township was the home of the Honorable Ner Middleswarth, a prominent civic and political leader of the county for many years. Beavertown was incorporated into a borough in 1914.

Freeburg

Freeburg was founded in 1796, just seven years after the United States government was put into operation by the administration of President Washington. Its founder was Andrew Straub, a Revolutionary War soldier, the son of Peter Straub, who was one of the first settlers in the valley. He owned much of the land in and around the present location of Freeburg. Originally there were ninety-five building lots. One acre of land was donated for church and school purposes. The present Lutheran and Reformed Church is erected on one of these lots. It is reported that the founder of the town became so poor that at his death, he was buried at public expense in the graveyard he had previously donated to the town. He died in the stone house on the farm of Paul Kuster (1755-1847), a few miles west of Selinsgrove, in Penn Township, later owned and occupied by his son, Henry Kuster (1809-1877), and then by his grandson, Franklin P. Kuster, who removed the house and constructed a frame building instead. For many years there was no marker at his grave, and tradition alone enabled the people to point out the place where his remains lie buried. In 1920, upon the initiative of the Freeburg Reunion, a suitable marker to the memory of the founder of the town was placed on the grave.

Originally the town was known by the name of Straub's Town or Straubtown, and the valley in which it was located was called "Klopperdahl". THE FREEBURG VALLEY was originally referred to as the Dutch Valley of Cumberland County. This was the name given to the valley between the Chestnut Ridge and Flint Ridge, according to an old deed dated August 11, 1765. The first

settlers of the valley were Dutch, then followed the Swedes, later the English, and finally the Germans. In the course of time "Klopperdahl" became applied to the valley probably on account of the remarkable re-echo of sounds produced by the report of gun-fire and the terrific peals of thunder. Finally, when much more land was cleared and the valley dotted with fine farms, the name was changed to Pleasant Valley, descriptive of its beautiful appearance. Today the people quite commonly refer to it as the Freeburg Valley. Apparently there is no reliable record of just when the name of the town was changed to that of Freeburg. In fact, for many years the change of names was scarcely recognized by those who spoke the Pennsylvania German dialect. The natives persisted in calling the place Straubtown. Just how the change in name was brought about is a matter of conjecture. It is probable, however, that the free gifts of building lots to the town made possible by a number of public-spirited citizens induced the people to refer to the town as "Free-burg", and that later these words began to be used and written as one word "Freeburg". Others believe that the town was named after the town or district of the same name in Germany since many of the earliest settlers of the Freeburg Valley were German people.

The Town becomes a Borough

An attempt was made in 1874 to have Freeburg incorporated into a borough. A petition signed by forty-two citizens was presented to the county court and favorably acted on by the grand jury in February, 1874. At the May term of court, a remonstrance was filed with the court against the incorporation including exceptions. Seventy-five witnesses gave testimony, a majority of whom opposed incorporation. Some of the citizens who had originally favored incorporation now reversed themselves and testified against it. The result was that the court took into consideration the popular opposition to the step and refused to confirm the recommendation of the grand jury in its action of February, 1874, and the town continued to remain within Washington Township for nearly fifty years.

In 1920, almost one hundred years after the organization of Washington Township, the members of the Freeburg Civic Corporation and other influential citizens again petitioned the court for incorporation. The Freeburg civic organization was a chartered organization for the

public improvement of the community. It had many accomplishments to its credit such as making the town into a borough, getting re-surfaced roads, and electric lights, and carrying through successfully the election to bond the borough for a public water supply. The petition for incorporation was favorably reported by the grand jury and confirmed by the court, December 13, 1920. The first election in the borough was a special one, held January 11, 1921. At this election 101 votes were cast, twenty-two by women and seventy-nine by men. Frederick Hilbish was chosen the first chief burgess.

State Road Through Freeburg

Although the state had taken over the public road from Selinsgrove to Mifflintown a number of years ago and had kept the same in repair, it was not until 1929 that the necessary steps were taken to re-locate and build a substantial road connecting these two towns. A part of the survey for the new road was made in 1929. The proposed road was to pass through the meadow south of the borough. The citizens of the borough objected on the basis of its effect upon business and property values. In 1930, at a joint meeting of the borough council and citizens, it was decided to petition the Department of Highways to build the road through Market Street. The petition was circulated. Another meeting was called subsequently at which J. S. Ritchey, the Division Highway Engineer, Senator Benjamin Apple, Representative George A. Erdley, the County Chairman of the Republican Committee, and a large group of citizens, were present. A large majority voted in favor of the proposed plan and not one voted against it. The State Highway agreed to reduce the width of the road through the borough from standard thirty-six feet to thirty-four feet and the road in due time was completed.

Electric Lights and Water Plant

Upon becoming a borough in 1920, the town undertook many needed improvements. Electric lights were installed in 1922. In 1925 the borough council took the initial steps to secure a public water plant to be owned and operated by the borough. To finance the project, it was necessary to obtain the consent of the voters because of the constitutional restrictions upon bonded indebtedness. While the electors supported the project, the improvement, however, could not be made since the lowest bid to con-

struct the water works was \$24,000 while the seven per cent constitutional limit of the assessed value of the property was \$16,512.65.

In 1926 a chemical truck was purchased and paid for with money subscribed by the citizens of the borough, who felt very keenly the need of fire protection. In 1928 a small dam was constructed at Cherry Run on a lot purchased from Will W. Houtz to provide at least some water supply for pumpers in the event of fire. At about the same time the old mill race was cleaned out to be used as a water supply for that portion of the town. The cost of making these improvements was about \$400 and was paid by the borough.

Carriage Factory and Coachmaker Shop

A carriage factory was built in 1852 by Colonel George B. Straub on the north side of Market Street, between East and New East Streets. Colonel Straub and his son, Elias Straub, did a very successful business in the manufacture of carriages, buggies, and farm wagons, for many years. After the death of Colonel Straub, Elias Straub and his son, George Straub, took over the business. With the decline in the use of horse-drawn vehicles and machinery, the chief work of the factory consisted of repairing and painting automobiles. James P. Artley had a coachmaker shop in Freeburg as early as 1872.

Cigar Manufacturing

An important industry in Freeburg for many years was the manufacture of cigars. Edward Bassler, a son of Edward Bassler, Sr., the merchant, established a cigar factory in the building vacated by the Freeburg News newspaper office. After the death of Mr. Bassler, the factory was taken over by the Gilbert brothers: John, Wilson, and Oscar Gilbert. They did a very successful business for many years. John Houtz built a cigar factory on the north side of Market Street, between New East and Willow Streets, where he was engaged in the business for many years. About a dozen people were employed regularly. After his death, his son, Will Houtz, took over the business. He bought the building formerly occupied by the Freeburg WEEKLY COURIER and the William P. Moyer Drugstore. He added a third story to the building. He then moved the John Houtz Factory building back of this three-story building. Both buildings were then used in his extensive manufacture of cigars. After several years of very suc-

cessful business, he sold out to Felix Snyder and moved to Sunbury, where he engaged in the tobacco business on a large scale. Felix Snyder continued the manufacture of cigars for a number of years and finally quit the business. Since 1929 there hasn't been any cigar factory in operation in Freeburg.

The Brown Brothers' Box Factory

The box factory was purchased by William F. Brown and Arthur C. Brown in 1901 from E. R. Shellenberger. It operated for about seventeen years, and supplied the cigar box needs in the various areas between Williamsport and Harrisburg. Its capacity was on the average of 400 boxes per day, and it employed six persons. The factory was housed in a frame building on the corner of Front and Water Streets. At first it operated with steam power but later with gasoline power. The business was discontinued in 1918 on account of the war, and never restored.

The First Grist Mill

The first grist mill in Freeburg was built by Andrew Straub. It was a two-story structure and its power was furnished by water from Wissahickon Creek, which is the main stream flowing through Pleasant Valley. The mill property was bought later by Elias Haas who operated the mill for a number of years. The Goy Brothers, George and Levi, became the next owner and they operated the mill in partnership for years. When this partnership was dissolved, Levi S. Goy became the sole owner of the mill. He built a saw-mill and a hydraulic cider-press near by. He also installed a stationary steam-engine which was so located that its power could be applied to the cider-press, the saw-mill, or the grist-mill as desired. Some years ago, because of its dilapidated condition, the grist-mill was torn down by Levi S. Goy, and his son, Frank, erected a new mill. At about the time that the saw-mill was abandoned, the hydraulic cider-press continued operation. The new mill was supplied with modern machinery and sold to Willard Meiser who began to run it with electric power.

Freeburg Horse Market

Freeburg received no little reputation throughout Snyder County and the counties immediately surrounding because of the numerous horse sales conducted there from January, 1888 to February, 1928. The horses were generally known as Illinois horses, shipped to this locality by

railroad and sold at both private and public sales from a large sales-stable erected especially for the purpose at the west end of the town. This horse market business was carried on under the management of Frederick E. Hilbish, a prominent citizen of the community. During these forty years, Mr. Hilbish sold over 400 carloads of western horses, and handled many hundred thousand dollars in the business.

The Town Hall of Freeburg

The Freeburg Town Hall was made possible by the generosity and liberal-mindedness of Professor Daniel S. Boyer. Probably no citizen of Snyder County was more unselfish and public-spirited than he. In 1867 he built the hall to meet a community need. It was dedicated, December 26, 1867, to literary and educational purposes in honor of its founder. The hall was located on the south side of New Market Street, between South and East Streets. It was a frame structure, sixty feet by thirty-six feet in size, and two stories in height, with a cupola containing a bell weighing 400 lbs. The first floor had a stage, a hall with a railing around it, and two dressing rooms. The second floor had rooms for the meetings of the Odd-Fellows and the Philharmonic Society. The Town Hall was a great convenience to Freeburg and many entertainments were conducted in it. The hall was struck by lightning, June, 1892, and the building, together with the furniture and all the paraphernalia of the secret organizations, was destroyed by fire.

The Philharmonic Society of Freeburg was incorporated in 1879. The primary purpose of the society was the practice of vocal and instrumental music and the discussion of the subject of music. The society held weekly meetings in the town hall. The room was equipped with organ, piano, charts, and other equipment needed in the pursuit of musical knowledge and skills. The members paid weekly dues. Musical conventions of a week's duration were held at regular intervals, and a school of music was conducted during the year with terms of six weeks in length. The convention and school were always well patronized.

Shamokin Dam

The village of Shamokin Dam is located on the Susquehanna River about five miles north of Selinsgrove and

one and one-half miles south of the famous Blue Hill. Shamokin Dam and Blue Hill are permanently associated with the river traffic, the old stage coach road extending from Harrisburg to Northumberland, the days of the Pennsylvania canal, early Indian trails, the Indian Chief Shikellamy, and the numerous hair-breadth escapes of white people from pursuing blood-thirsty savages. The village was originally known by the name of Keensville, having been founded in 1745 and named after George Keen, who conducted a general store and also a tavern at that place. After the dam across the river was completed and the canal put into operation, the name of the village was changed to Shamokin Dam. This latter name came from the Indian town of Shamokin, located on the opposite side of the river, and also from the river dam constructed at the place to serve as a feeder for the canal. The word Shamokin appears to have been used first by the Delaware Indians who came to the Susquehanna Valley about 1720. The origin of the word can be traced to two Indian words: "sachem" (chief) and "ohke" (place), thus the name Shamokin means the chief's place. This origin becomes really significant in the light of the fact that Shamokin (now Sunbury) was the dwelling place of the Indian Chief Shikellamy for many years, and ultimately became his burial place.

Early Industries of the Place

Many of the earlier inhabitants of Shamokin Dam were river raftsmen or were engaged in shad and eel fishing, or, in later years, in removing coal from the bottom of the river. Several of the residents have continued this latter work to the present day. The Susquehanna River was a great commercial highway for central Pennsylvania, especially for the transportation of timber from the forest regions in the northern areas of the state. Many of these raftsmen and river pilots were engaged in bringing rafts from Lock Haven and Williamsport as far south as Marietta, in Lancaster County, and even beyond that place. Shamokin Dam was an important stopping place for these river rafts, their pilots, and their crew, as well as for the canal boatmen and their mules. They would rest here for several days before resuming their journey up the river to their homes. Frequently this return trip was made on foot.

The shad and eel fishing was an extensive and lucrative business for many residents of Shamokin Dam prior

to the erection of dams across the river at Clark's Ferry and Columbia. Fish were plentiful and the fishing industry afforded these people an easy but profitable living. A valuable fish and eel market was maintained at Shamokin Dam for many years. For obvious reasons these dams across the river practically ruined the fish industry of the river to the north of these dams.

Coal-digging among the deposits on the bed of the river was a rather extensive business for many years. In fact several men from Shamokin Dam are still engaged in this kind of work. A coal-digger resembles a huge flat with a large revolving paddle to keep the flat in motion. To lift the coal from the bed of the river, buckets at first were fastened to elevators; later the raising of the coal from the river bed was accomplished by suction.

After the Pennsylvania Canal was built (1827-1832), it became an additional water-way not only for timber but also for grain, coal, and merchandise. The coal was brought very largely from the mining regions along the North Branch and the lumber from the forest regions along the West Branch. The coal, lumber and grain were transported to Philadelphia by way of the Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Canal, and the Delaware River. On the return trips merchandise and manufactured articles were brought back. Upon the completion of the Shamokin Branch of the North Central Railway between the towns of Shamokin and Sunbury in 1837, the coal was brought from these regions by railroad to be shipped on the Pennsylvania canal.

The Pennsylvania Canal extended along the Susquehanna River from Havre de Grace, Maryland, to Northumberland, and from thence along the West Branch to Flemington, and along the North Branch to Nanticoke and Wilkes-Barre. The canal was operated by the Pennsylvania Canal Company. Dams were built in the river at various places at the time the canal was built for the purpose of turning the water into the canal to secure the requisite depth for the use of the locks. There were canal locks at Shamokin Dam. The dam across the river at this place was constructed on a reef of rocks known as the "Shamokin riffles". Shamokin Dam was an important link in the Pennsylvania Canal since the boats were "tied up" here for the night and the following morning the journey was resumed with a different span of mules. In addition to the canal boats generally used in the trans-

portation of freight, packet boats were used on the canal for passenger service. This means of transportation at the time was in direct competition with the stage coach operating between Harrisburg and Northumberland. Prior to the building of the canal, these packet boats were used on the river.

Wayside Taverns

The many taverns along the Susquehanna River did a thriving business in those early raft and canal days, especially when these raftsmen and the river pilots were returning from their trips down the river. In the distance of seven miles along the old stagecoach road between Northumberland and Selinsgrove there were at least nine taverns. Shamokin Dam had at least four such taverns that were built prior to 1800. These were Schuyler's Tavern at the foot of the Blue Hill, Armstrong's Tavern at the river ferry, Keen's Tavern located on the site of the present Logan House, and Daniel Hummel's Tavern known as "The Rising Sun", now the residence of Truman Purdy, Esq. There were still other taverns later on such as the one conducted by George Gaugler largely for the accommodation of the river-men, and the Hartman Tavern located one-half mile below the dam on the river front. Both of these taverns were constructed in 1835.

The River Ferry and Boat Service

The history of the ferry and boat service across the Susquehanna River at Shamokin Dam goes back to the days of the proprietary form of government in Pennsylvania. In 1772 a patent was granted by Thomas and Richard Penn to one Robert King to operate a ferry over the river. During the twenty-five years following, this patent right was transferred from individual to individual, until the year 1797 when it was taken over by the Borough of Sunbury. The borough then leased the ferry to private parties up to 1854. By an act of the legislature, April 11, 1859, the exclusive legal right to the ferry was vested in Dr. Isaac Hottenstein. When the canal was built, it extended through Dr. Hottenstein's land for about one mile and an abutment of the river dam was built upon it. The franchise right of the ferry was extended to Dr. Hottenstein in remuneration for damages to his land caused by the building of the canal and the dam. This right finally came to Ira C. Clement of Sunbury through the heirs of Dr. Hottenstein.

By an act of the legislature, April 5, 1870, the Sunbury Ferry and Towboat Company was organized in which were incorporated the rights and privileges formerly possessed by Ira C. Clement. Mr. Clement was made the president of the company, and he became one of its heaviest stockholders. Clement built several steamboats on the river bank opposite Race and Arch Streets. These boats were named the "Shad Fly" (a side-wheeler), and the "Susquehanna". There was also a double-decker pleasure boat called the "City of Sunbury" towed by another steamboat and used to ferry the guests of the Hotel Shikellamy from the Market Street wharf across the river to the base of the Blue Hill, and from thence by hack to the top. There were also several smaller boats called "Amanda", "Rover", and the "Queen", used to ferry passengers from Market Street wharf across the river to Shamokin Dam. So long as the dam remained in the river, the ferry continued in operation. According to the schedule, steamboats made the trip across the river between Shamokin Dam and Sunbury every fifteen minutes.

The ferry and boat service must have been of great importance to the people on the west side of the river since that was the only means of transportation across to Sunbury and the more distant places. Huckster-wagons, carriages, spring-wagons, and baggage were towed on flats across the river. Not only was the ferry and boat service of great use to the residents of Shamokin Dam and the immediate vicinity, but the service proved a very important outlet for trade for many people throughout the county. In the flood of 1889, when the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge was so damaged that it could not be used for train service, the railroad company established a ferry service of its own for its passengers and baggage. The ferry and boat service was discontinued after having been in operation for about 135 years. The completion of the Bainbridge Street Bridge across the river in 1906, and the fact that the dam was almost completely swept away in the disastrous flood of 1904 made the river ferry and boat service unnecessary and impracticable.

Growth of the Community

Sixty years ago the village of Shamokin Dam had two churches, a schoolhouse, two general stores, two taverns, a grocery store, and a steam-sawmill. The population at that time was approximately 300 inhabitants. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1870 and in 1871

a two-story church building was erected. This building was improved and rebuilt in 1904. The Lutheran Church was organized in 1872. The congregation worshipped in the schoolhouse until 1888 when a new church building was erected. This latter building was rebuilt and enlarged in 1926. It is worthy of note that three outstanding ministers and theologians have served this congregation. These were Dr. Peter Born, Dr. Jonathan R. Dimm, and Dr. Franklin P. Manhart.

The first schoolhouse in Shamokin Dam was built opposite the Keensville Tavern in 1829 by Dr. Isaac Hottenstein, a distinguished medical practitioner and public-spirited citizen of the community. He donated the land for the school and furnished the teacher at his own expense. John P. Shindel of Middleburg was the first teacher and forty pupils were in attendance. The borough today owns and maintains a five-room elementary school building. The pupils of the secondary grade level attend the high schools in Selinsgrove and Sunbury. Since 1830 Shamokin Dam has had a post-office. The first postmaster was George Keen who kept the office in his tavern. The first general store was owned and operated by G. Milton Gross and was located on the site of the present Weis Pure Food Store. A canning factory was owned and operated by George Haine. The site of the factory can be identified today by a row of magnificent larch trees planted some fifty years ago. There was also a steam saw-mill owned and operated by C. W. Brown, and located on the east side of the highway practically opposite the present residence of the Hon. Ira T. Fiss.

Shamokin Dam was taken from the territory of Monroe Township and incorporated into a borough in August 1927 with the Hon. Ira T. Fiss as its first Chief Burgess. After careful planning, many needed improvements were begun and since completed. A street lighting system was installed and side-walks and curbing built. A Community Hall was erected in which the borough meetings are held, and in which the fire company is housed. The second floor is used for community socials and entertainments by local talent. Shamokin Dam today is a progressive borough ranking third in property value and in population among the boroughs of the county. There are no industries in the borough today and the residents have to find employment in other places. More than fifty per cent of the residents own their own homes. According to the

census of 1940, the population consists of 780 people. Almost immediately after the completion of the river bridge at Shamokin Dam in 1906, the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Street Railway began to operate and continued to operate until 1934 when it was replaced by a bus line owned and operated by Buffington, Kessler, and Wilhour, popularly known as the B. K. W. Bus Line. This bus line is in operation at the present time. It has a garage and repair shop at Hummels Wharf.



New Berlin, the County-seat of Old Union County

New Berlin is a rather small inland town but rich in history and tradition. In many respects the town has appeared to belong in a special way to Snyder County. Many factors have combined to make New Berlin more closely affiliated with Snyder County than with Union County. Among these factors may be mentioned the geographical position as a border town with the Shamokin Mountains in the background, practically isolating the New Berlin area from the remainder of Union County, its proximity as a trading center for many Snyder County people, its church and school advantages, and the fact that the town served as the seat of justice for Snyder County people

for more than forty years. So intimate have been the relationships of many Snyder County people with New Berlin and the Dry Valley region that the movement for the division of the Old Union County in 1855 was almost defeated, not by the people of the northern end of the county as might be expected, but by the voters of the southern part of the county. In other words the people of the northern part of the Old Union County largely made possible the division of the county. This very briefly sets forth the reasons for including a short history of New Berlin in the history of Snyder County.

New Berlin is located in a fertile limestone valley on the north bank of Penn's Creek, which is the boundary line at this place between the two counties. The first permanent settler was John Beatty. He built a cabin in 1769 at Indian Spring, north of the town, and in 1775 operated a tannery on the site of the town until his death in 1787. The town was laid out in 1792 by George Long, and for many years was known as Longstown. The original part of the town consisted only of the two lower streets along the creek. The survey of the town lots was made by Captain Frederick Evans, a prominent man of his day. At the time the town was laid out, George Long donated a number of lots to the town along the creek to be used by residents as a common cow-pasture. As was the general practice in those days, a lottery was conducted by George Spring about 1816 to promote the sale of lots at twenty-five dollars per share per lot for the purpose of making a sizable addition to the town to be known as Springfield. About the time the town was chosen as the county-seat of Union County, its name was changed from Longstown to New Berlin, on account of the prevailing German population of the town and surrounding country. In spite of the change in name, the rural population, for the most part, persisted in referring to the town for more than a century by its original name. New Berlin was incorporated as a borough in May, 1837.

In its growth, population, and industries, New Berlin has not been much different from any other small town. It is a beautiful place in many respects. The main street is a magnificent thoroughfare. In 1814 the town consisted of fifty-nine taxables representing the typical occupations of that day. In that year there were thirty log houses as dwellings, one frame house, and seventeen log-buildings as places of business in the town. In 1857 there

were one hundred dwelling houses, county public buildings such as the courthouse, the jail, and the office building, several stores and taverns, and five churches, the Lutheran-Reformed (1821-1867), the Presbyterian (1841-1933), the Methodist (1840-1870), the Evangelical (1816-1930), and the United Brethren (1857-1935). In that year were published four newspapers in New Berlin, two in the English language and two in the German language. New Berlin has never been known as a manufacturing town. Its earliest industries were restricted to a flour and grist mill, a tannery, and a sawmill. As early as 1800 there was a schoolhouse in the place. Upon the incorporation of the town into a borough in 1837, the Free School Act of 1834 was freely accepted and three schools were put into operation in line with the provisions of the law. In population, the town hasn't grown during the last hundred years. The population in 1840 was 679 while in 1940 it had decreased to 583.

The act of the legislature providing for the formation of Union County out of Northumberland County designated three commissioners who were to select a town as the county-seat of Union County. New Berlin was chosen as the most desirable location. Steps were immediately undertaken to erect the necessary public buildings. The courthouse was built on a lot located on the south-east corner of Market and Vine Streets. This lot was sold to the county by Christopher Seebold for sixty-seven cents, and the building has served since 1857 as the borough public school building. Frederick Hipple contracted to build a stone jail in 1816 for \$4,000, on a lot belonging to John Solomon. This old stone building is still standing and is a private residence. It is located on the north-west corner of Market and Plum Streets. East of the courthouse and adjacent to it, was erected a long two-story brick building called the "state house" in which were housed the county offices and the jury rooms. This building today is in use as a private dwelling. The first Union County Court was held at Youngmanstown (Mifflinburg), and continued its sessions there until 1815 when the seat of justice of the county was moved to New Berlin. New Berlin continued to hold the court from September, 1815, to December, 1855. With the making of New Berlin as the county-seat, the town grew rapidly until 1855 when the county-seat was transferred to Lewisburg. The removal of the county-seat proved a hard blow to New Berlin, and

since that time the town has scarcely maintained itself in size and population. The decline of the town seemed to have been begun with the division of the county and with the removal of the county-seat. What was once a thriving business town and a popular educational center has been for the past twenty-five years very largely a quiet, residential rural community.

The Evangelical Association was organized in New Berlin in 1816. The first Evangelical Church in America was erected at this place the same year. The church building was located on Water Street. A boulder and



Evangelical Church and Publishing
House at New Berlin

bronze plaque today designates the location of the original church. This church was torn down in 1873, and some of the lumber was used to make picture frames, canes, and other ornaments and sold as relics. Most of the material, however, was used in the erection of the new Evangelical Church on Market and Plum Streets. This latter building was sold by the Evangelical Conference in 1930. In 1855 the West Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association united with the East Pennsylvania Conference in the founding of a higher institution of learning in New Berlin known as Union Seminary, later called Central Pennsylvania College (1856-1902). This institution served the needs of the church and of the community during all these years. The institution was located on Plum

Street in the north-eastern section of the town. At the third regular conference of the followers of Jacob Albright in 1810, it was decided to hold two camp-meetings during that year. The first one was held May, 1810, on the farm of Michael Maize, two miles east of New Berlin, on the road from New Berlin to Winfield. Professor Albright in his history of the Evangelical Church states that this was "the beginning of camp-meetings in the Evangelical Church, the first German camp-meeting in America, and perhaps in the world". The first printing house in New Berlin was erected in 1816 on a lot adjoining the First Evangelical Church on Water Street. It published religious books in both German and English, and also a church weekly in both languages called DER CHRISTLICHER BOTSCHAFTER and the EVANGELICAL MESSENGER. In 1882 its printing business was removed to Harrisburg. In 1854 the publishing house was moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

New Berlin can very appropriately be called a great newspaper town. Many newspapers of a political, religious, and local nature were published there in the English and German languages during the forty years between 1816 and 1856. The number of newspapers published in New Berlin probably exceeded those of any other town of its size in the entire state. At one time as many as five newspapers were published, four in the English Language (the EVANGELICAL MESSENGER, UNION STAR, UNION TIMES, and the UNION DEMOKRAT), and one in the German Language (DER CHRISTLICHER BOTSCHAFTER). Within two years of the organization of Union County in 1813, two newspapers called the ADVOCATE OF THE UNION and the UNION were published in New Berlin. The following year the NEW BERLIN GAZETTE was started. In 1822 the UNION and the GAZETTE were merged into the UNION TIMES. When the division of the county took place, this paper was moved to Freeburg but shortly afterwards, was sold to a Middleburg publisher and combined with the SNYDER COUNTY JOURNAL and became known as the JOURNAL AND TIMES. In 1857 the paper was sold to Frank Weirick and published in Selinsgrove as the SELINSGROVE TIMES. In 1851 Israel Gutelius published DER UNION DEMOKRAT in New Berlin and about two years later moved it to Selinsgrove on account of the controversial nature of the question of the division of the county. During the Anti-Masonic days, the ANTI-MASONIC STAR was published in New Berlin by

Charles Seebold, as editor and proprietor. In 1839 this paper became known as the UNION STAR. In 1851 a German paper called the VOLKSFREUND was published and in 1855 another German paper known as the UNION ADLER was published. About 1842 two periodicals devoted to the cause of temperance were published in New Berlin known as THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE and the FAMILY VISITOR and the GOOD SAMARITAN.

New Berlin gained prominence in matters other than church, school, and newspaper. A few of these incidents need only to be mentioned. The town has been the seat of numerous political conventions and demonstrations and protest meetings. Two monster anti-free school meetings of the people of the county were held in the courthouse in New Berlin in September, 1834, for the purpose of promulgating the opposition movement to free schools. Resolutions were unanimously adopted condemning the free school law as dangerous to the rights of free citizens and urging its immediate repeal. All this appears very strange to the people of the present day. New Berlin was a pioneer town in the opposition movement to Free Masonry (1826-1836) in the nature of publishing an anti-masonic newspaper. It was in New Berlin that this opposition first manifested itself in the form of violence that resulted in the breaking up of a Masonic meeting and parade in August, 1829, that was held under the auspices of the Lafayette Lodge of Selinsgrove. In August, 1852, there was held in New Berlin a meeting to discuss and to make arrangements to build the first railroad in Union County. In November, 1852, the Union County Agricultural Association was organized in New Berlin and its first agricultural fair for a period of three days was held at that place the following year.

In the town of Winfield is located the famous Eyer Barn in which was held the Ninth Annual Conference of the Evangelical Church, June, 1816. At this conference was transacted business of far-reaching importance such as initiating the publishing business of the denomination, the planning of the First General Conference by electing twelve delegates to constitute the Conference, and the launching of the missionary enterprise of the Evangelical Church. The Eyer Barn is a stone structure, and was built in 1805 by Abraham Eyer who had emigrated to this section from Lancaster County in 1773. At the Eyer homestead, house and barn, were held many important

religious meetings conducted by Jacob Albright (1759-1808), the founder of this denominational Church. At Winfield was located the Union or Dry Valley Furnace to which much iron-ore was hauled from Snyder County mines to be smelted into pig-iron. At Winfield also occurred the Lee family Massacre in 1782.

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CHAPTER 6.

The Pioneer Settlers of the Territory later known as Snyder County

Tell me a tale of the timber lands,
And the old time pioneers;
Somethin' a poor man understands
with his feelings as well as ears;
Tell of the old log house—about
the loft, the puncheon floor—
The old fireplace with crane swinging out,
And the latchstring through the door.
James Whitcomb Riley

The Early Settlers Mostly German People

Many of the early settlers of Pennsylvania were German people. In addition to them, there were other settlers such as the English Quakers, the Scotch Irish, the Welsh, Swedes, and a few Holland Dutch, but the settlers of these other nationalities were so few in number that their influence upon the country's history was practically negligible. In the course of time, the German people in the colony became known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. The latter term was quite generally applied to the German settlers but the former term, is historically much to be preferred. There were too few Dutch settlers in the Pennsylvania colony to have the name applied to the German population as well as to themselves. The word "Dutch" probably is a corrupted form of the German word "Deutsch", and in this way became loosely but popularly employed to designate both the German and the Holland Dutch settlers.

The Pennsylvania Germans have frequently been referred to as the "dumb Dutch". When these German people first settled in the Pennsylvania Province, many of them could not speak the language of the Scotch-Irish, Welsh, and the English Quakers, or at least were extremely limited in the use of their language. Their inborn modesty constrained them at first not even to attempt to speak at all in that language. When spoken to, they simply remained silent. This situation provides a plausible explanation for the application of the unsympathetic epithet "dumb" to them as signifying merely "refraining from speaking" instead of designating them as ignorant or stupid. The term "Dutch" is a misnomer since Dutch is the language of the people of Holland and is distinct from the German language despite some relationship between

the two languages. The original meaning of the word "Deutsch" was "the folk" of the Rhenish Provinces and yet most people don't have even that meaning in mind when they refer to the Pennsylvania Germans. The proper meaning of "Deutsch" is German or Teutonic and not Dutch. Probably the similarity between these two words is responsible for such a perverted translation. It is so easy to refer to Deutsch as Dutch and let it go at that.

The Ancestry of the Pennsylvania Germans

To know the Pennsylvania Germans, we have to know something about their background. The Pennsylvania German settlers came almost exclusively from Southwestern Germany, Saxony, Silesia, and Switzerland. Southwestern Germany included at the time the Palatinate, the Saar Valley, Baden, Hesse, Alsace-Lorraine, Wurttemberg, and the region of the Black Forest. The majority of these settlers came from the Palatinate. It is well for the reader to bear in mind that the arrangement of the map of Europe at the time of the first settlements in Pennsylvania was far different from what it is today. Strictly speaking from a political viewpoint, there was no Germany at that time. The entire territory was simply a confederation of small states, principalities, and kingdoms, whose chief bond of union was the language held in common by the general population. It is from this kind of Germany that these immigrants, who are numbered among the first settlers of Pennsylvania, came. The European background of these settlers will now be briefly discussed.

The ancestors of the German people lived in these areas 2,000 years ago when Caesar's legions waged war with the different German tribes (58-51 B.C.). It appears that the Pennsylvania German people are the descendants of the liberty-loving Alamanni tribes that played such a prominent part in Caesar's Gallic Wars. About two centuries prior to the time of Caesar, their lands had been over-run by the Cimbri and other Teutonic Tribes. In the time of the Gallic Wars, they were in constant conflict with the Romans. These Alamanni were finally defeated at Strassburg in 375 A. D. by the Romans under the leadership of Julian. While defeated, they learned rapidly from their defeats how to overcome their enemies. Their first conquest was the province of Alsace-Lorraine and a goodly portion of Switzerland. At last they came into conflict with the Franks, who, about a century before the sack of

Rome by Alaric (410 A. D.), had made their first settlements west of the Rhine, and were laying the foundation of the Kingdom of the Franks and the beginning of the French nation of modern times. It is said that in the midst of one of the battles with the Alamanni, Clovis, the King of the Franks, made a vow that if he were given the victory, he would embrace the Christian faith. While only partly successful at first in subduing the Alamanni, he nevertheless fulfilled his vow. After much warfare, the Alamanni were completely conquered in 506 A. D. and accepted the Christian faith in common with their Frankish conquerors. Henceforth, the Alamanni lost their identity as a tribe and as such disappear from history. In this way ancestors of the Pennsylvania Germans became a mixed group consisting primarily of these Alamanni, Franks, Swabians, and Swiss.

The period known in history as the Dark Ages then set in (476-1453), and comparatively little is known of affairs on the continent. There are some reasons for believing that the rule of the Frankish kings over their subjugated tribes must have been harsh and tyrannical to say the least, but the spirit of liberty among them remained intact. In due time Christianity began to break away from its formalism, Christian liberty was fanned into a flame, and the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century became a reality. When we read the history of these different peoples in their struggles for freedom and of their resistance to invasion and conquest by the aggressor nations, we have to infer that they must have been a brave and determined people. One of the frequently mentioned characteristics of the Pennsylvania German people is stubbornness, and no doubt it grew and developed out of the bitter and tragic experiences of their lives during these years.

In the days of Feudalism during the latter part of the Dark Ages, the territory of the Palatinate was divided by political leaders into provinces with no consideration whatever for the wishes of the people who lived in that area. In the meantime political troubles spread largely because leaders of state became arrayed against one another, and the people grouped themselves into Calvinists, Lutherans, and Catholics. The inevitable outcome of these conditions was a prolonged and calamitous conflict known as the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). The struggle began between the Protestants and the Catholic princes of Ger-

many, but in course of time it involved practically every country of the continent, and degenerated into a bloody struggle for power and territory. This entire area became one vast battlefield for the ambitious war lords of the continent, and the inhabitants were compelled to bear the brunt of it all. It is next to impossible to picture the wretched condition of Germany at the close of the war. The population of the country was estimated about thirty millions at the beginning of the struggle, and only about twelve millions when the war ended. The best manhood of the country was killed, whole cities were burned and laid waste, large areas were without any inhabitants, and trade and industry no longer in evidence. The fathers and grandfathers of the first Pennsylvania German settlers were the very people who had first-hand contacts with this terrible war.

About forty years after the close of the Thirty Years' War, the warlike King Louis XIV of France initiated another war known in Europe as "The War of the Palatinate" and in America as "King William's War" (1689-1697). The brunt of the struggle fell upon the Palatinate. The country was pillaged, 1200 towns and cities sacked, even the orchards and the farm crops were destroyed and 100,000 of the inhabitants murdered. In the midst of these calamities, many of the inhabitants of the Palatinate and of other provinces turned to religion for solace and help. Different religious cults made their appearances such as the Amish, Mennonites, Dunkers, Schwenkfelders, Shakers, Moravians, and the Seventh Day Adventists. Continually disturbed by wars and economic persecutions, these sects became vigorously opposed to war because of the bloodshed and devastation, and made their religion the chief interest of their life. In consequence these new sects did not meet with favor on the part of the Protestants and the Catholics. Religious and economic persecutions followed and in course of time, they turned their eyes to America as the home of religious and political freedom for all people. The Palatinates had the fullest sympathy in their suffering of the persecuted in Switzerland and of the Puritans and Quakers in England. William Penn was so much interested in the suffering Palatinates that he made at least three visits to their country in the hope that something might be done to relieve their sufferings. Not only was Penn willing and able to give them succor and sympathy, but even King William III and

Queen Anne of England used their influence and material resources to mitigate their afflictions.

Emigration to the New World

When William Penn obtained his tract of land in America, Penn's Woods became a haven for the oppressed and war-weary people of Europe of the different faiths. Here they felt were no restrictions nor limitations, as to race, creed, social status, or language. The devastations of war, together with the favorable reports of those who had previously emigrated to Pennsylvania, the fine brotherly spirit of the proprietor of the colony, and the blessings of their new-found religious freedom motivated thousands from the Palatinate and other states to migrate to the New World. Penn's letter to the settlers of the Province must have been a powerful incentive for people to come to Pennsylvania when he said:

You shall be governed by laws of your own making and live as free, sober, and industrious people. I shall not usurp the rights of anyone nor oppress his person. The law shall be made by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the Province.

Here was an apostle of democratic freedom and religious toleration, the very things the oppressed people of the Old World coveted so much. Penn believed differently from many people of his day, and still he respected their beliefs. While he was persecuted for his religious beliefs and convictions, he never persecuted others. Instead he provided a home in Pennsylvania where all such might worship their Creator according to the dictates of their own consciences. Penn believed in the sovereignty of the people. He had a passion for human rights and for human welfare. He believed the people should make their own laws, and then be obedient to the laws they had made.

Political oppressions and religious persecutions are very likely to cause a current of a super-representative group of people to migrate to other lands. Such a superior group is not likely to submit to inhuman treatment in the home-land. The Quakers and Germans coming to Pennsylvania, and the Puritans to Massachusetts, are good examples of such a class of people. Their decision to come to America was an incentive for others to follow. Many of these emigrants belonged to the plain sects. Mennonites left Switzerland, Moravians left Bohemia, and the Schwenkenfelders withdrew from Silesia because of re-

ligious persecutions. Many more were of the Lutheran and Reformed faiths, with the Lutherans by far in the majority. These Lutherans and German Reformed people were all intensively anti-Roman Catholic, and to this day their descendents quite generally adhere to the faith of their forefathers. They were a motly array of poverty-stricken folk because of the ravages of incessant warfare and economic and religious persecutions. Toward the latter part of the 18th century, they came in ever-increasing numbers to the New World. It was one of the greatest treks in history. It is said that so many came to America that whole areas of the Palatinate were practically drained of their population. The Provincial Records furnish the names of about 30,000 people who emigrated to Pennsylvania and New York.

It appears strange at first thought that the country of Germany that furnished so many of the settlers in America played no extensive part in the period of American Colonization. The first shipload of German immigrants came to Pennsylvania in 1683 under the leadership of Francis Daniel Pastorius, and settled in what is now known as Germantown. This was the real beginning of German immigration to Pennsylvania on a very extensive scale. In fact so many of these German people followed that the authorities became greatly alarmed. They began to entertain great fears that the colony would likely be German, instead of English, and no longer loyal to the mother country. Consequently measures were taken to curb German immigration. The Provincial Assembly passed a law in 1727 making it compulsory for German immigrants to take the oath of allegiance to the English Government. Also, English ship owners co-operated with the government to restrict German immigration to Pennsylvania by taking their passengers to ports in the colonies of New York, New Jersey, and Maryland in the hope of diverting the flow of immigration away from Penn's Colony. But all this had little or no effect since these German immigrants were so set to come to Pennsylvania that ultimately they found their way to Penn's Colony. The immigrants that landed in Maryland found their way northward to York, Adams, and Lancaster Counties; those from New Jersey came across the Delaware River and settled in Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties; and those from New York came down the Susquehanna Valley and settled in Snyder, Dauphin, Lebanon, Schuylkill, and Berks Coun-

ties. Those from the New York Colony originally had settled on the west bank of the Hudson River on the site of the present town of Newburgh. Soon they became discontented, were dispossessed of their lands, and moved to settlements in the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys, and from there, they came to Pennsylvania. When this unjust treatment became noised about through the German Provinces, these German immigrants came directly to Pennsylvania in place of taking the indirect route by way of the New York Colony.

It is reported that prior to the Revolutionary War as many as 110,000 Germans and Swiss emigrated to America. They came, for the most part, from the rich and fertile provinces of the Rhine Valley. There was a marked increase in the German population of Pennsylvania from the beginning of the settlement. In fact we are told that in 1752 one-half of the people of Philadelphia were Pennsylvania Germans, so that all street signs had to be in both the English and German languages. In fact, by 1755, the German population had increased so much that even Benjamin Franklin became alarmed about it. He raised this important question—"Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a colony of aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of Anglifying them?" It is most gratifying that Franklin in the course of time changed his viewpoint when he realized that these pioneer German settlers proved to be honest, hard working, and patriotic Americans. It could not well have been otherwise since they came to America for political and religious freedom, for freedom of conscience and personal liberty, and not for material gains and political advantages. They had little or no interest in material gains. Among other reasons for their coming were Penn's travels in Germany, his pamphlets of his "Holy Experiment", the influence of Queen Anne of England, the agitation of ship-owners to encourage emigrants to come to America for the sake of profits in transporting them, and even the wanderlust spirit which drove many to America.

These immigrants were a frugal, hardy, and industrious people who came for conscience's sake to America and to find an improved economic and political condition. They came to America in old ships, some of them being scarcely seaworthy. Little wonder that some of the ships were lost at sea with all on board. It usually took from four to twelve weeks to cross the Atlantic. These people

endured all the privations of a long sea voyage with all the horrors of sea-sickness, scurvy, ship-fever, and even death. Their diet on the voyage consisted of salted pork and beans, salted beef, potatoes, and hard biscuits. They were frequently mistreated on the way by the shipmaster and the crew. Is it any wonder that often as many as one-third of the passengers died on the way.

Probably most of these early settlers paid their own passage to America. On the other hand, we do know that thousands were unable to do so. In order to enable such to come to America, shipowners and certain rich persons furnished the necessary money on the condition that all such would bind themselves to work for a certain number of years, usually from five to seven, for the payment of this passage. Such persons in the colonies were known as indentured servants but later became known as redemptioners. Some of these laborers unfortunately could not meet the obligation in the required time, and consequently their servitude continued much longer than the usual time. Often the coming to America was not a matter of voluntary choice by the people, many were forcibly kidnapped and brought to America to labor for the colonies. Among these redemptioners may be mentioned Mathias Schoch, John Shemorry, and the Reverend Yost Henry Fries.

These early Pennsylvania Germans have frequently been accused of illiteracy. This charge is probably true but they were probably no more illiterate than any of the other colonists. Illiteracy was quite common among the pioneer settlers, and often those of high social rank could neither read nor write. The registration requirements in vogue at the time show that actually a larger percentage of them could write their own names than could those immigrants of English nationality. Their education was very elementary but definitely religious in character. In line with the traditional practice of European lands, they had learned a trade and thereby could earn a livelihood. While deprived of much education, they were extremely sympathetic towards the rudiments of an education. This is shown by the fact that wherever they settled, they took immediate steps to build schoolhouses and churches. These people brought their Bibles, the catechism, and the psalter; they worshipped first in private homes and later in log church buildings. The Lutherans and German Reformed built union churches and worshipped together. Their ways of living in the Pennsylvania Colony exemplified in

every way the motives that originally impelled them to leave Europe and to seek new homes in the forests of America.

The German Immigrants Settle Chiefly in Penn's Colony

Most of the people came to America by the way of Holland and England, to which countries they had previously been invited by Queen Anne. The expenses of thousands of these people on their journeys were cared for by the English Queen. Some of them settled near Philadelphia, and their settlement became known as Germantown, later a part of Philadelphia; others pushed farther into the wilderness, northward and westward, into the valleys of the Schuylkill, the Lehigh, and the Susquehanna Rivers. This area embraced at first portions of what are now the counties of Bucks, Montgomery, Berks, Lehigh, Northampton, Lancaster, and later spreading to the counties of York, Cumberland, Dauphin, and Lebanon. The first settlers in the territory now known as Snyder County came from these lower counties, particularly Berks and Lehigh, before the breaking out of the Revolutionary War.

Those German immigrants who went to the New York colony at first temporarily settled along the Hudson River but later moved to the Genesee Valley (Schoharie). In the course of time, they discovered their titles to the land invalid and found other conditions not at all to their liking. Upon hearing that Penn welcomed settlers to his province and upon the invitation of Governor Keith, they traveled afoot through the forests to the headwaters of the North Branch of the Susquehanna. From there, by rafts and boats they floated down the river to the mouth of the Swatara Creek in central Pennsylvania, and from thence to Tulpehocken by the way of the Tulpehocken Creek.

The Location of the First Settlements in the Territory Now Snyder County

The Creek and River Valleys

Special attention will now be given to settlements in particular places in this area now known as Snyder County. Many of these settlers came from the southern and southeastern counties instead or directly from Germany. The first white men of whom we have any record that traveled through the territory now known as Snyder County were some of the German people who had become dis-

satisfied with the treatment they had received from the authorities in New York in 1728. These people were on the way from the Genesee Valley to Tulpehocken in Berks County. Conrad Weiser followed them in 1729, and his father in 1745. Some of these people, evidently impressed by the land, just as soon as the Albany purchase had been made returned from the Tulpehocken to build homes for themselves in the neighborhood of Penn's Creek. Some of these pioneer settlers that came from Berks County to this locality, become the progenitors of many of the families living today in this area. Their names are well known today all over this section. Among them are the Gemberling, Jarrett, Hummel, Wagenseller, Miller, Moyer, Pawling, Rowe, Schnure, Schoch, Weiser, Ulrich, Maurer, Brouse, App, and Beaver families. An extensive settlement was founded along the Penn's Creek as early as 1745. This was nine years before the Albany Treaty. Just where along Penn's Creek these first families actually settled nobody definitely knows but they probably settled along the mouth of the Creek, and from there scattered all along the creek even beyond New Berlin. In the records of the Penn's Creek massacre, we are told of one Jacob LeRoy who lived in the valley beyond the mountain from New Berlin.

The site of the northern portion of what is now known as Selinsgrove along Penn's Creek, was originally settled by Scotch-Irish people from the Kittatinny Valley. This probably occurred as early as 1755, one hundred and ninety-two years ago. It is reputed that George Gabriel was the first white man to build a cabin near the old mouth of Penn's Creek in 1745. George Gabriel, a trapper and an Indian scout, had an Indian trading post, and was probably none too honest at times in his dealings with the Indians. Gabriel originally came from Lancaster County since his name is mentioned in the assessor's list of that locality as early as 1750. The Susquehanna River valley at this place and the Penn's Creek valley were settled to some extent before this date. The Governor of the Province had sent Conrad Weiser to this community to tell these people to move away since they were occupying lands contrary to regulations. Two years later the settlers returned, however, and among them for the first time is mentioned George Gabriel. All this territory was still claimed by the Indians, but despite protests and warnings by the Governor, threatened fines and even imprisonment, and prob-

able massacre by the Indians, the settlers came. The Indians protested against these encroachments but all in vain. By the Albany Treaty of 1754, the land was purchased as the only way of pacifying the Indians and of dealing with the increasing immigration of the white settlers. By the Treaty of 1768 at Ft. Stanwix, more lands were opened for settlements by the whites, and many Irish, Dutch, and Germans began settlements along the West Branch and the Susquehanna River.

When George Gabriel first settled here, it is claimed that he purchased the land or at least made some acceptable settlement for the land that he occupied. This is rather doubtful because in the massacre of October, 1755, the Indians burned his cabins, and Gabriel and his family escaped to Berks County. He returned later and in 1756 served as a guide for Colonel Clapham on his way from Harris Ferry to build Ft. Augusta, and then probably took up his abode again at the mouth of Penn's Creek. It was at Gabriel's cabin that Captain Patterson arrested Stump and Ironcutter, January 21, 1768. Gabriel is listed among the assessed of Penn Township in 1768. About 1771 or 1772, we read no more about him. Whether he was killed by the Indians or died a natural death we do not know.

The early settlements along the Susquehanna River near the mouth of Penn's Creek were known by several names. At one time the place was known as Gabriel's or Georgetown, after George Gabriel. It appears this name was retained until about the time of the Revolutionary War. Then two towns became evident in the community, Charlestown or Drumstown (land laid out by Charles Drum) and Weisertown or Weiserburg. The former town was located on the Isle of Que and was by far the more important in population and industry. The name Charlestown was still applied to the Isle of Que in 1814. A road extended diagonally across the entire settlement from the present location of the Selinsgrove Community Center to the residence of Elias Walborn on the Isle of Que. The part of the town south of this road was called Weisertown or Weiserburg.

Another pioneer settler of this locality was Conrad Weiser, a grandson of the distinguished interpreter and intermediary between the Indians and the Colonial Governors. The name Weiser was preserved for many years in the name of Weiserburg by which the lower part of the town was known for so many years. Conrad Weiser was

the owner of much of the land in this area which he had undoubtedly inherited from his more illustrious grandfather. Just how the grandfather became the possessor of such large tracts of land in this part of the colony may be matters of conjecture. He may have purchased some of the land from the Indians, or received some of it from the proprietors of the colony in exchange for his services, or he may have obtained lands from the Indians by ways and means peculiar to the customs of those days.

At this point the history of these pioneer settlers resolves itself very largely into the history of individual families. It is not the purpose here to give a genealogical account of these pioneer families. That would carry us too far afield. Such a task must be left to the respective family historians. We have to be content with merely naming some of these families, who they are, and where they settled in the areas of Snyder County.

Among the first white settlers on the Isle of Que was John Jacob Fisher (1720-1803) whose parents, Sebastian Fisher and wife, had emigrated from the Palatinate to the State of New York in 1709, and in 1723 migrated down the Susquehanna Valley to the Tulpehocken Valley situated between the present towns of Myerstown and Womelsdorf. One of their sons, John Jacob Fisher (1720-1803) and his son, John Adam Fisher (1744-1825) were the forerunners of the Fisher family of this part of the state. In 1774 they settled on land bought from Conrad Weiser about 1754, and located on the southern part of the Isle of Que. During the Indian uprisings of 1777-1778, John Jacob Fisher returned to the Tulpehocken Valley but John Adam Fisher remained here until his death in 1825. John Adam Fisher served in the Northumberland County militia, was a large land owner, and reared a large family. The pioneer ancestors of the Wagenseller family (Wagensell) were Christopher and Christine Wagenseller who came to America in 1734, and settled in what is now known as the Perkiomen Valley, Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. Certain members of the Wagenseller family migrated from that place about 1790 to Selinsgrove, then Northumberland County, and became the progenitors of a large and illustrious family in that section. Among them may be mentioned lawyers, physicians, teachers, chemists, farmers, printers and publishers, and business people.

John George Ulrich (1753-1824) is listed among the

first settlers at such an early period that some of the Indians were still living around the neighborhood. He succeeded in winning and holding their confidence and friendship by his wisdom and foresight so that the Ulrich Family was never molested by them. While the Indians were disposed to plunder and to destroy the property of the white settlers generally, and even to murder them, no depredations were ever committed against the property and the family of this particular man. A spring on the west side of the town, about one-fourth mile north of the University Campus, was the favorite resort of the Indians, since it was located on the Indian path that led from the valley of the Middle Creek across the hills to Buffalo Valley.

Jacob Gemberling (1733-1824), with his wife and six children, came in 1782 to this section from Tulpehocken. He took up a tract of land one mile west of the Susquehanna River. This land is now the property of A. Ira Gemberling, a descendant of Jacob Gemberling. Jacob Gemberling and his wife died at a very old age and were buried in the Old Lutheran Cemetery in Selinsgrove. John Christian Schnure came from Berks County and settled in Penn Township along the Middle Creek in 1785. About 1790 Mathias App (1761-1826) came from Northampton County and settled in Penn Township near Selinsgrove. John Jacob Hummel (1756-1832) and his son, Frederick John Hummel, (1773-1845) came from Berks County to the Susquehanna Valley and settled in 1794 in what is now known as Monroe Township. In 1794 Joseph Pawling (1753-1840) came from Berks County and settled in Penn Township west of Selinsgrove in the vicinity of Rowe's Church. This church was founded in 1775. John Moyer, the great-grandfather of David Moyer, now a retired resident of Selinsgrove, settled on a tract of land a short distance west of the present town of Salem. John Frederick Miller (1738-1821) was an early settler on the farm, about three miles west of Selinsgrove, which was occupied years afterwards by his great-grandson, the Honorable Charles Miller (1843-1910) who served as a member of the General Assembly (1876-1880).

The pioneer settler in the Middle Creek Valley proper was Mathias Schoch, a native of Germany, born in Alsace-Lorraine on the borderland of Switzerland in 1738. As a lad of eleven years he emigrated to America in 1749 with his two brothers and two sisters. Being too poor to pay for his passage to America, he sold himself as a

redemptioner to Conrad Weiser to make possible the payment. As such he made his home with him at Tulpehocken, Berks County, Pennsylvania, for a period of six years. Some years later, about 1760, he settled in the Middle Creek Valley (then Penn Township, Cumberland County) where the present town of Kreamer is located. Mathias Schoch was conversant with the language, the customs, and the characteristics of the Indians. Much of this knowledge he undoubtedly acquired through Conrad Weiser. A common procedure to get land from the Indians was to trade a rifle for it. This we are told Schoch did in the Middle Creek Valley with the local Indian chief.

Schoch spent about a year in the valley, and upon his return to Tulpehocken, made application in 1762 for a warrant to his lands. He then married the daughter of a Hughuenot in Berks County, and returned to his land claims along Middle Creek. Of his place of residence, the early annals say "he located his home just above Smithgrove (Kreamer), in from the road, above the burnt barn of Charles Keck, and just across the run where the old log fort still stands". This house must have been located a few feet south-west of the present residence of Charles N. Fries. Older residents recall the foundation of a house in that immediate neighborhood although the house itself had disappeared many years before that time. A second house to which the early annals refer must have been the log building formerly used as a place of residence by Charles Keck, one of the oldest residents of Smithgrove. This site is now occupied by the residence of Mrs. James Snyder. The site of the "burnt barn of Charles Keck" is now occupied by the residence of Lear Eichman.

Mathias Schoch was also a patriot and soldier as well as a pioneer settler. At the opening of the Revolutionary War, he enlisted at Sunbury in Colonel Philip Cole's battalion, Fourth Regiment of the Northumberland County Militia; he also served as a private in Captain John Clark's Company, and he concluded his military services with distinction as a ranger in Lieutenant Speer's Company of militia, May and June, 1780.

The land taken by Mathias Schoch consisted of two tracts. The first tract known as Baintree of 78 A. was taken up in 1766; the second tract known as Pennsburg of 228 A. was dated 1762 and 1773. He then took out a patent deed for the whole of his 306 A. in 1790, paying

fifteen pounds and twelve shillings for the first tract and fifty-one pounds and seventeen shillings for the second tract. About this time, one Johannes Christman took a tract of land of eighty-one A. which joined the Schoch tract on the west. Another tract of land west of the Schoch tracts was owned by Peter Godshalk, "his homestead being where Jacob Walter now resides". This latter place is now the residence of Robert Fair. Beyond the Godshalk tract, on both sides of the creek, was a large tract owned by John Hendricks, a brother-in-law of Godshalk. Upon the death of Hendricks, his land was divided between his two sons — Abraham received the land on the south side of the creek "including the old homestead which was the house where Charles Keck now lives". This latter place is now the residence of George Aurand. Mr. Keck lived here prior to his removal to Smithgrove. The other brother, Samuel, received the land on the north side of the creek. This farm is now owned by Edward Ramer. Below the Hendricks' tract on the north side was the tract of Mathias Dauberman extending down to the tract of John Aumiller. Above the Hendricks' tract on the north side of the creek was the land of Melchor Stock, dated 1766. Next to the Hendricks' tract on the south side of the creek was the land of John Rush, a Quaker, taken up in 1765. This land extended as far west as the land known later as the Peter Yoder farm. Beyond this was the land of Melchor Yetter, and then the land of Henry Bollender "extending as far west as the present town of Franklin". This latter place is now Middleburg.

John Jacob Wetzel came to America in 1737 and settled in Berks County. He served as a private in the Revolutionary War. In 1794, three of his sons, Philip, Peter, and Henry, migrated to what is now known as Snyder County. All three of these sons saw service in the American Revolution. Philip (1751-1826) settled west of Middleburg, followed the trade of blacksmith, and is buried in the Old Hassigner Church Cemetery. Peter (1756-1826) took up residence in what is now known as Union Township in Old Union County. Henry (1762-1850) lived in what are known as Middlecreek and Jackson Townships. He is buried in New Berlin. His son, John Henry, Jr., (1799-1879) settled on the tract of his father along Middle Creek. It was located directly north of Kreamer, at the intersection of the road from Erdley's

Church with the main highway from Selinsgrove to Middleburg. He is buried at Rowe's Church. He owned a log factory in which he made scythes, sickle blades, and gun-barrels. He constructed a dam for operating his iron-making shop. He also used the water power for milling purposes. In addition to his farming, he burned lime in kilns the ruins of which may still be seen near the old homestead. His son, Henry N., served as county commissioner of Snyder County.

John Y. Kern (1746-1815), of German birth, emigrated to America in 1771 and settled in the Middle Creek Valley on land now included in Franklin Township. At the time, the Indians were still numerous in the locality and the settlers found it expedient to have their trusty flintlocks with them while working in the fields. Kern died 1815 and is buried in the old graveyard of the Hassinger Church, two miles west of Middleburg. Other pioneer settlers in this immediate community were John George Eslinger, Leonard Diehl, and Jacob Walter. The latter was born in Germany in 1729 and emigrated to Berks County, sometime prior to 1757, where at least three of his children were born. One of his sons, David Walter, moved to Penn Township before the outbreak of the American Revolution. There he became the owner of "200 acres of land about one mile from the Middle Creek and about twelve miles from where said creek empties itself into the Susquehanna River in Northumberland County". This place is about one and one-half miles west of Middleburg in what is now Franklin Township. He was a tailor by trade but in his new home, he engaged in farming. It is said that he erected the first linseed-oil mill in this part of the country. He was a member of the building committee which erected the log-building church in 1785 known as Hassinger's Church. His home was frequently the place of worship by the early settlers before the church building was erected. He died in 1803 and is buried, among other pioneer settlers of the Middle Creek Valley, in the Hassinger Church Cemetery. One of his sons, David Walter (1761-1838), served at different times in the campaigns against the British and Indians during the Revolutionary War. David Walter is the ancestor of the Walter people living in Franklin Township. Other pioneer settlers of this area were the Hassinger, Bubb, Gift, Swineford, Swengel, Bowersox and Smith families, some of whose descendants can still be numbered

among the residents of the community. Special mention should be made of an early settler by the name of John Smith who came to this community from Lancaster County in 1774. He had a large tract of land on the south side of Middle Creek. He built a cabin, dug a well and planted an orchard, but Indian troubles made it advisable for his personal safety to return to Lancaster County. Nine years later, in 1783, he returned to his land and found his cabin, well, and orchard still in existence. Paul Bowersox, a native of Germany, came to America about 1772 and settled in the same territory. He became the progenitor of a large and illustrious Bowersox family of the county. About 1768 Peter, Nicholas, and John A. Gift, three brothers, came from Germany to America and settled in Northampton and Lehigh Counties. Peter Gift was a clock maker and followed his vocation throughout his life at Reading; Nicholas Gift settled in Franklin County as a farmer; and John Adam Gift came to the Middle Creek Valley in 1777 and settled three miles west of the present site of Middleburg. He became the progenitor of the Gift family in the county. The farm was located on the north bank of the Middle Creek about three miles west of the present town of Middleburg, in what is now known as Franklin Township. In 1793 he came into possession of another tract of land on the right bank of the Middle Creek, about one-fourth mile west of the present village of Paxtonville.

Christopher Royer (1718-1796) came to America from Germany in 1748 and settled first in Lancaster County, and then later in Berks, Centre, and Snyder Counties. His residence was near Royer's bridge, four miles west of Middleburg, in Franklin Township. George Frederick Bollender was a settler in Franklin Township sometime prior to 1800. He was the grandfather of Daniel Bollender, Sheriff of Snyder County for three terms. The ancestors of the Renninger Family around Middleburg came from Germany and settled in Berks County, and from there came to Snyder County.

The Arbogast, Aumiller, Aurand, Boyer, Dreese, Hackenberg, Kuster, Motz, Rowe, and Smith families originally came from Germany and first settled in the lower counties such as Lancaster, Berks, Northampton, or Lehigh, and then moved to Penn Township which at the time comprised practically all of what is today known as Snyder County. The Dunkelberger family originally

came from the Black Forest region of Southern Germany, settled first in Berks and Schuylkill Counties, and finally in Washington and Middle Creek Townships, Snyder County.

The Freeburg and Flinstone Valleys

From Penn's Creek and the Susquehanna River Valleys, the settlers rapidly moved inland into the upper valleys of Middle Creek and Penn's Creek, and into the Freeburg and Flintstone Valleys until most of the county was occupied. The first white settler in the Freeburg Valley was a man by the name of Ruland who had built a cabin down in the meadow which is now a part of the farm known for many years as the John Hummel farm,



Home of Jacob Meier, 1768

about one-half mile west of Freeburg. Ruland settled there in Revolutionary War days, probably three years before the Second Continental Congress passed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The second settler was Frederick Albright, but he tarried in this section only for a very short time. He was a hunter and soon moved to the south of Flint Ridge where hunting appeared to be better. The third pioneer settler in this locality was Jacob Moyer (Meier, Meyer) who built a stone house about 1768 in the northwestern part of what is now known as Washington Township. Despite its great age, the building is still in existence, and is located near the road from Freeburg over the White Top Hill to Globe Mills.

The fourth settler near the present town of Freeburg,

of whom there remains at least a partial record, was Peter Straub (Strob) (1724-1804), who settled about 1785 on what is now known as the Isaac Lenker farm, located about three miles north-west of Freeburg. By comparing dates, we note that this settlement was made two years before the Convention of Delegates from the states had met in Philadelphia for the purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and whose deliberations resulted in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States. The location of Straub's house was close by the present public road. The house is described as having been one-story high, weatherboarded, and painted red. Years later the house was converted into a wagon shop by Jacob Haines, and in more recent years has been torn down.

Inasmuch as Peter Straub was the father of the man who founded the town of Freeburg, it is worthwhile to know something about him. Peter Straub evidently was a typical pioneer. He wore home-made clothing and never used any buttons but had the clothing tied together with strings. He wore a straw hat, manufactured by himself, at all seasons of the year, and never any other kind. His wife was known as an expert at the spinning wheel, and she too wore home-made clothes. The family meal was prepared in the open fireplace. It is said they never used any tallow candles nor lard lamps. The only artificial light used in their home was provided by burning pine knots. The furniture and the kitchen utensils were all home-made. Close by the place where Straub had built his house was a never-failing spring of excellent water. An arch of rough stone was over the spring, and on it the inscription 1822 — Peter Straub. Even now with an age of 126 years, it is still in good condition. This was evidently constructed by his son, Peter Straub (1766-1845), who is buried in the St. Peter's Cemetery in Freeburg.

Frederick Albright was one of the early settlers in Flintstone Valley. This is a valley about one mile due south of Freeburg, situated between the Flint Ridge and Neitz's Ridge. He built his log cabin near a spring. The patent for this land of 159 A. is dated November 27, 1788, and was given the forbidding name of the "garter snake".

Settlements in the Southern and South-Western Sections of the County

Probably the first settler in what is now known as

Chapman Township was Thomas McKee, a noted Indian trader, who settled there in 1744. In 1755 he took out his first warrant for a tract of land along Mahantango Creek, extending along the river from the falls, and westward to include lands, now the Grubb's Church section. Thomas McKee was such an outstanding frontiersman of his day that he merits much more than a mere passing recognition. Much history, legend, romance, and tradition cluster around the activities of this man. He was not only the founder of the village of McKees Half Falls but also the distinguished Indian trader and military man in the days of the colonies.

McKee played a prominent part in the early history of the Pennsylvania Province. His activities were by no means restricted to the McKees Half Falls section, nor to his trading posts. His influence extended over much of Central and even Western Pennsylvania. He was a native of Donegal Township, Lancaster County. Very little is known of his early life prior to his coming to the Susquehanna River Valley. He first settled about 1744 on the eastern side of the river approximately where the present town of Dalmatia is now located. He was a friend and associate of Conrad Weiser, who probably accompanied him on his first visit to this section. McKee is best known as a fur trader and a ranger. He had trading posts at his place of residence, at Halderman's Island at the mouth of the Juniata River, and at Big Island (Lock Haven) where was located a Shawnee Indian village. His residence was a stopping place for travelers up and down the valley of the Susquehanna and was commonly referred to as "McKees". This fact is known from the diaries of Edward Shippen and Bishop Cammerhoff who in their travels in the river valley made "McKees" their stopping place. It is well known that Conrad Weiser, Shikellamy, Shikellamy's two sons, and many Indians, stopped at his place of residence. This situation could not well have been otherwise because of his intermarriage with the Indians and the strategic position of his residence and trading post. An Indian trail extended from Shamokin (Sunbury) to Mahantango Creek and from there to the Juniata River at the mouth of Delaware Run near the present town of Thompsett. This trail served as the means of transportation and communication for this section of the province. The Indian Trail became known as McKee's Path.

This territory was owned and occupied at the time by the Shawnee Indians. Later these Indians migrated westward across the Alleghenies and settled along the Allegheny River where Kittanning is now located. Although living west of the mountains, these Indians still bore allegiance to their old chief residing on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River in Wyoming Valley. This is evidenced by the fact that when McKee in some way had incurred the ill-will of the Shawnees at Big Island, his life was threatened and he was advised by an Indian girl to flee immediately for safety. This McKee did, leaving behind at the trading post all his property which the Shawnees seized and divided among themselves. Later McKee demanded the restoration of this property, and in company with Conrad Weiser, journeyed to Shamokin (Sunbury) to lay his claims before the Chief Shikellamy. It is said that Shikellamy ordered the Shawnee Chief to return the property to McKee and to guarantee to McKee a safe journey through the Indian territory to his trading post. When Shikellamy made a similar demand upon the Shawnees at Kittanning, they replied that the king in the Wyoming Valley had full control of all those matters. With his constant contact with the Indians, McKee could speak the Indian language fluently, and in course of time married a Shawnee woman. It is said this woman was no other than the Indian girl who told him of the threats on his life and who aided him in his escape.

Thomas McKee had two sons by his Indian wife, James and Alexander. These sons also played a prominent part in the frontier life of that day. McKee engaged in varied activities along the frontiers. By his leadership abilities and diplomacy, he greatly influenced Indian affairs. These activities were soon brought to the attention of the provincial authorities, and he was frequently called upon to lend his influence in the settlement of affairs. McKee played a no less active role in military affairs. He and a party of Indian traders discovered the bodies of Jack Armstrong, Woodward Arnold, and James Smith in the Jacks Narrows. McKee served with the militia in 1746. He received a captain's commission, and was placed in command of Ft. Hunter in 1756. In 1755, Captain McKee, in command of a body of men, came north and buried the victims of the Penn's Creek Massacre. In 1755 Captain McKee took out a warrant for a large

tract of land called "Fellowship", at the mouth of Mahantango Creek, extending along the river above and below the falls. This land was afterwards divided, and sold to the early settlers of that area. Thomas McKee died in 1772 at McKees Half Falls.

Much controversy has existed with respect to the location of Ft. McKee either on the east or west side of the river at McKees Half Falls. There is no doubt that McKee's trading post and place of residence originally were on the east side of the river. But when the war broke out in 1755, there was need for greater protection of his land holdings on the west side against hostile Indians, and Ft. McKee was built by Captain McKee to afford this necessary protection. The place of its erection in all probability was within the confines of the village, north of a small stream that flows into the river, and across the road from the old McKees Half Falls Hotel. This was the only fort south of Selinsgrove on what is now known as Snyder County territory. The fort was of stone construction, probably thirty feet by forty feet, and was entirely removed about 1830 to make room for the Pennsylvania Canal. Also within the confines of the village is the now almost forgotten burying ground where repose the remains of Captain Thomas McKee. This burying ground was first used for burial by the Indians and later by the early white settlers of the community. Immediately to the south of the hamlet of McKees Half Falls lie the Sechrist Meadows which were among the earliest sections of land in this area to be patented.

Other pioneer settlers in the southern area of the county were the Aucker's, Garman's, Gaugler's, Herrold's, Shaffer's, Scholl's, Sechrist's, Rine's, Witmer's, and many others, whose descendants live today in this section. G. Hendrick Herrold, with his four sons, John, Frederick, Simon, and George all born in Germany, was the ancestor of the Herrold family in America. He first settled in Indiana County, and from there, the four sons came to the Susquehanna valley, and settled in what is now known as Chapman Township. In 1765 Peter Shaffer moved to the McKees Half Falls area, primarily for hunting and fishing purposes. He did not stay long, however, because of the roar of the falls and the offensive odor of the decomposing fish that accumulated continually along the river bank. Michael Witmer owned 150 acres of land about the falls as early as 1766. Henry Rine (1747-1814) settled in 1768 in

what is now known as Chapman Township. He owned 1000 acres of land along the river, extending as far north and west as the present village of Hoffer. He and members of his family are buried in a private cemetery in Chapman Township. A monument marks the resting place. Jacob Sechrist bought land south of Mahantango Creek as early as 1767. Peter Witmer, born in Germany in 1737, came to America and settled in Columbia, and from thence, in 1766, traveled by boat, up the Susquehanna River to what is now known as Union Township, built a log cabin and settled there. Peter Witmer was the grandfather of the Hon. Daniel Witmer who served as a member of the General Assembly (1857-1858). John Shemorry was another early settler of this locality. He had emigrated from Germany as a redemptioner. After serving three years in Baltimore to pay for his passage across the ocean, he came to the Susquehanna River valley, took up land in what is now Chapman Township, and built a hut for his home. The Indians in that neighborhood were war-like, and in consequence, he moved to Bucks County where he resided until about 1766. He then returned to his old settlement again where he continued to live until his death in 1774. He was a carpenter by trade, was the builder of the original Grubb's Church, and is said to have been the second person buried in that graveyard adjoining the church. His son, John Shemorry, was born in 1783 and died in 1878 at the age of ninety-five years, at the home of his great grandson, Isaac S. Longacre, in Union Township.

One of the earliest settlers in the vicinity of what became known as Aline, Perry Township, was Henry Meiser. He came from Germany and first settled at Albany, New York. From there he went up the Mohawk River, crossed over to the headwaters of the Susquehanna River, came down the North Branch, and landed in the neighborhood of Swatara Creek. From this place he brought his personal property in a two-horse wagon to Perry Township, near the present site of Aline, where he lived for a while in a rudely constructed hut made out of bark. The Indians in this neighborhood appeared hostile, and on different occasions, Meiser moved his family to where New Buffalo is located in Perry County as a precautionary measure. At this latter place a fort had been constructed as a refuge for the settlers from the attacks of the Indians. The Indians were frequently inordinate in their demands upon the white settlers for food. Even the giving of bread and

eatables often failed to appease them. It is told on one occasion an Indian seized the bread out of the bake-oven. In an encounter with one of the Indians, Meiser succeeded in killing him. Such incidents show how perilous must have been the conditions under which these pioneer settlers had to live. Meiser was a great hunter and spent no little time in following this pursuit. Deer were so plentiful in this area that they could be shot almost at any time one chose to kill them. Panthers were so common that they would prowl around the hut in which the Meisers lived. Michael Meiser, the son of Henry Meiser, built an oil mill near the present village of Meiserville about 1800. The old stone building was still standing in 1885. The descendants of the original Meiser family are still living in Meiserville and the neighborhood.

Another early settler in Perry Township was Henry Shadel, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1752, and who emigrated to Berks County, and from there came to Mahantango Township (Perry) in 1795. He built a grist mill and a saw-mill about the year 1810. Henry Shadel served as a teamster in Washington's army during the Revolutionary War. He died in 1822 and is buried in Grubb's Church Cemetery. A great grandson was J. A. Shadel of Mt. Pleasant Mills. A great-granddaughter was the wife of Dr. Marand Rothrock of Fremont. In 1772 John Graybill purchased 1000 acres of land of which the town of Richfield occupies a part. He was born in Germany in 1735 and is buried in the old cemetery north of Richfield. On his tombstone are inscribed these words: "He was the oldest settler in this vicinity".

The Northern and Northwestern Parts of the County

The great-grandfathers of the late Dr. Percival J. Herman (1851-1936) of Selinsgrove, formerly of Kratzerville, were John Herman and Jacob Jarrett, who were among the original settlers in the neighborhood of Kratzerville. They came to this region from Lehigh and Northampton Counties about the time of the opening of the Revolutionary War. The ancestry of the Hottenstein Family may be traced back to Germany. Jacob Hottenstein, the ancestor of the Snyder County branch, first settled in Berks County in 1727. A great grandson, Dr. Isaac Hottenstein, was a practicing physician at Shamokin Dam. One of the pioneer settlers of the Hummel Family of Monroe Township was John Hummel, who, with his wife and three sons, came

from Germany about 1745, and first settled in Berks County. A number of their grandchildren settled in Monroe Township and became the progenitors of the present Hummel Family of Monroe Township. The ancestors of the (Moyer, Meyer, Meier, Mayer) Family came from Wurtemberg, Germany, about 1670, because of religious persecutions and the numerous wars that were waged on the European continent. The Moyer Family of Adams Township are the descendants of Hans and Christina Moyer of Berks County. Jacob Moyer, a member of this family, migrated to Musser's Valley known as Moyer's Mill, and an old landmark along the Jack's Mountain, east of Troxelville. The ancestor of the Fetterolf Family of Adams Township was Frederick Fetterolf who migrated from Berks County. Johan Jost Bingaman and his wife came from the Palatinate and Wurtemberg in Germany about 1754 and settled in what is now Adams Township. About 1800, Henry Swartz of Berks County settled in Musser's Valley.

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CHAPTER 7

The Indians of Central and Eastern Pennsylvania and of the Susquehanna Valley

Justice is the insurance we have on our lives and
property, and obedience is the premium we pay for it.

William Penn

From Whence Came the Indians

The origin of the American Indian is largely a matter of conjecture. These early inhabitants of America as found by the first explorers were known as Indians. In some respects, the name applied to them has been very unfortunate. When Columbus landed at San Salvador, October 12, 1492, he believed he had reached the East Indies, and hence he applied the term Indians to the natives. It is not likely that any other name will ever be given to these aborigines. The name has become so definitely a part of the early history of our country that all efforts to displace it are likely to be futile.

It was long believed that all Indians originally came from the same immediate racial stock, and that whatever differences might exist among them in physical features and dialect could be traceable to the effects of varying environmental influences. The anthropologist, however, declares that such existing differences are not so easily explainable. The tribal differences are far more deep-rooted. The roots of some of the Indian languages are as different as are the roots of French and Russian. Donehoo states that there were about fifty-seven different linguistic groups among the Indians of America. The failure to understand these basic differences often proved the source of trouble in Colonial Times. The popular impression, on the contrary, has quite generally been that the Indian language meant one language with some variations that naturally resulted from the factors of time and from tribal separations.

Some writers think the American Indians are the descendants of the "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel". This cannot be accepted as a historical fact since the Indians lived in America long before the existence of the Kingdom of Israel (975-721 B. C.). The racial origin of the American Indians goes back to the Mongoloid people of Asia. The Indians could hardly have come from any other people. They probably came across the Behring Strait to the Americas during the transition period from the Old Stone Age to the

New Stone Age more than 10,000 years ago, and then gradually spread over the two continents. If their coming had occurred much later they undoubtedly would have brought along certain domesticated animals and plants such as cattle, sheep, pigs, rice, millet, barley, and wheat, whose introduction by the European explorers and settlers during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries aroused so much admiration and fear on the part of the natives. Had these aborigines come much earlier, there would be found in America cave and rock shelter deposits and fossil remains that would correspond to those in Europe and Asia, but none such have been found in America.

The Indians as the First Inhabitants of Pennsylvania

The first inhabitants of the territory now known as Snyder County, so far as is known, were the Indians. These Indians were a copper-colored race popularly known as the red-skins. They lived primarily in the valleys of Middle Creek, Penn's Creek, and along the Susquehanna River. Their mode of living required water as a means of transportation, and wild game and fish in abundance as a source of their food supply. These valleys provided an ideal opportunity for them to make a living. These same natural resources that proved so attractive to the Indians proved attractive to the white settlers. The needs of the Indians were simple and few, consisting for the most part of food, clothing, and shelter. Their chief activities were hunting, fishing and war. It is needless to go into detail concerning their mode of living, the kind of clothing worn, the preparation of their food, the kind of shelter they lived in, the work done by the women, the ravages of disease, the devastation of liquor and war, the methods of warfare, their beliefs in a Great Spirit and in a Happy Hunting Ground, the type of tribal government, their culture, the many dialects spoken, and their strange customs, traditions, legends and lore. To include such information, however interesting it might be to the general reader, would prove foreign to the purpose of this story and would carry the scope of its contents too far afield. It would simply be a repetition of the information contained in school texts and in numerous other books now found in school and community libraries.

The Different Indian Tribes Inhabiting This Area

The first Indians in the territory of Pennsylvania were

probably a tribe known by the name of Alhegeii. Vestiges of these ancient peoples have survived in the names given to the Allegheny River and to the Allegheny Mountains, and to certain artificial mounds still to be seen in a few localities of the state. Much of this early Indian history is beclouded in mystery so that only a few meager facts are known. It appears that these early inhabitants were destroyed by two powerful tribes known as the Lenni Lenape, or Linape, as they called themselves, and the Mengwe. As has been the common custom of the victors in tribal warfare, they divided the territory of the vanquished between themselves, the Lenni Lenape taking what is now known as Pennsylvania and the Mengwe, the lands later known as New York. The chief Indian tribes in Pennsylvania territory at the time of the settlements were the Algonquians and the Iroquois. These tribes were made up of many different divisions or sub-groups. For the purpose at hand, the account of the Indians will be restricted to those tribes that played a part of some importance in the history of the territory under consideration.

Our knowledge of the Indians that lived in the territory now known as Pennsylvania and New York during the historical period must be largely credited to the labors of the Jesuit and Moravian missionaries, and their efforts to convert the Indians to Christianity. When the valley of the Susquehanna was first explored by the French at the dawn of the sixteenth century, they found Indians belonging to the Algonquian Family. These Algonquians inhabited much of the territory from the Atlantic seaboard to the Rocky Mountain, portions of Canada, and lands as far south as the Carolinas. The Algonquians were composed of the Massachusetts Indians, the Ottawas, Chippewas, Sacs and Foxes, Mohicans, Miamis, Ojibways, Illinois, Shawnees, Powhatans, Nanticokes, Delawares, Narragansetts, Pequots, Blackfoot, and other tribes. Among the great chiefs of this family of the Algonquians may be mentioned King Phillip Powhatan, Pontiac, and Tecumseh.

That the eastern portion of what is now known as Snyder County was occupied particularly by many Indians is evidenced from the large number of relics that have been found such as arrow heads, stone hatchets, stone knives, and fragments of pottery. Practically in every community may be found one or more families having a sizable collection of various kinds of these Indian relics. The lower end of the Isle of Que was evidently a favorite

gathering place for the Indians and served as a general burying ground. Excavations for building houses and the digging of the canal fully support this statement. It is said that when the excavations were made for the cellar of Christian Fisher's house in 1791, a number of stone hatchets, arrow heads, pottery, and human bones were found. It is doubtful that there were many Indian villages in the territory now known as Snyder County. This area was rather a hunting and fishing ground, a roaming place rather than permanent abode for them. The May, 1946, flood washed away portions of the top soil of a field on the Wentzel farm on the lower portion of the Isle of Que, and laid bare large quantities of relics of Indian days. The eroded spots give every indication that the area, several hundred years ago, was a vast Indian burial ground. According to the custom of the race, when a body was buried, most of the person's personal belongings were buried with the body. The relics uncovered by the flood constitute a vast assortment of arrow heads, stone hatchets, tomahawks, tanning tools, paint pots, earrings, beads and the like. This new find confirms the tradition long held by the local inhabitants, that an Indian burying-ground was located somewhere on the lower portion of the Isle of Que. Tradition has it that there was a small Indian village in the Narrows immediately below Selinsgrove. The early Moravian missionaries speak of Indian villages in that neighborhood. Immediately across the Old Indian Trail from McKees Half Falls and south of the stream that flows into the Susquehanna River was an old Indian burying ground. When excavations were made for the erection of certain residences, human bones and Indian relics of various kinds were exhumed.

Some of these Indians became known to the French by the name of Andastes; later on they were known to the English as the Susquehannocks; the Swedes and the Dutch called them the Minquas. The Lenni Lenape, known to the settlers as the Delawares because for the most part they occupied the Delaware River valley, were also a branch of the Algonquian family. The name signifies the "original people". They were composed of three principal tribes. The territory of the Delawares extended from the Chesapeake Bay to the Hudson River, embracing the lands on the east and west sides of the Delaware River. On the west side of the Delaware River, their lands extended westward to the Blue Mountains. The Delawares were for-

Unfortunately less war-like than most of the Indians. They were for the most part subservient to the powerful Iroquois, and in whatever dealings they had with the white settlers, they first had to receive the approval of the Iroquois. The valley of the Susquehanna in the early days of the province had been assigned by the Iroquois to the Delawares, the Tuscaroras, the Shawnees, Conoys, Nanticokes, Monseys, and Mohicans for their hunting grounds. It has to be borne in mind, however, that these Indian tribes frequently shifted about in their territorial abodes so frequently that no permanent locality can be definitely assigned to a number of them. Those Indians who inhabited the hilly and mountainous areas along the Susquehanna River were the Monseys.

Other tribes of the Algonquians were the Shawnees, the Nanticokes, and the Conoys. The Shawnees originated somewhere in the South. One group lived in South Carolina and were known as the Savannahs, and the other group lived in Tennessee. In course of time they migrated northward and settled in 1698 in the river valleys of the Susquehanna and the Delaware in common with the Delaware Indians. About the time of the French and Indian Wars, the Shawnees moved westward and located along the Ohio and the Allegheny Rivers. Along the northern border of the Province from the Delaware River to the Great Lakes were the Mingoes or the Iroquois. The Nanticokes came originally from eastern Maryland where they were discovered by Captain John Smith when he explored that region in 1608. They settled in southern New York and along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River in what is known as the Wilkes Barre section. The Conoys came about the same time from the Kanawha River section in West Virginia, settled in Lancaster County, and then moved to the Wyoming Valley and New York.

The Iroquois lived around the region of the Great Lakes and along the headwaters of the Hudson, Delaware, Susquehanna, and Allegheny Rivers in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, in the Mohawk and Genesee Valleys of New York, and on territory westward to the Mississippi River. They were named Iroquois by the French; Mengwes by the Delawares; Maquas by the Dutch; and Mingoes by the English and Americans. They were originally composed of the Cayugas, Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagas, and the Oneidas. For this reason they became known among the colonists as the Five Nations, and when joined

by the Tuscaroras from the Carolinas, the confederacy became known as the Six Nations. The Tuscaroras belonged to the Iroquois Indians in language and at first lived west of the Alleghenies and south of the Ohio, but later in the Carolinas and Virginia. They were ill-treated in various ways by the white settlers. It must be known that the southern settlers, like those of Massachusetts, never recognized that the Indians had any rightful claim to any land, and therefore the settlers seized the lands of the Tuscaroras by force instead of acquiring them by purchase as was done in the Pennsylvania Colony. The white settlers of the South joined in with the Catawbas, who resided in river basins of the Yadkin and Catawba Rivers, administered to the Tuscaroras a staggering defeat, and drove the Tuscaroras north in 1712 where they became in due course of time a part of the Six Nations. The Tuscaroras lived for a time in Pennsylvania where they occupied certain areas of what are now known as Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Perry, Schuylkill, Wyoming, Juniata and Mifflin Counties. They left impressions by their names given to mountains, valleys and creeks, such as the Tuscarora Mountains that divide Perry and Franklin Counties from Juniata and Huntingdon Counties, and the Tuscarora Creek, which flows through the valley between Shade and the Tuscarora Mountains, and which constitutes the greater portion of Juniata County today.

The Susquehannas were related to the Iroquois in language and race but were never connected with the Iroquois Confederacy. When Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay regions in 1608, he named certain Indians in that area the Susquehannocks. He described these Indians as unusually large men with good dispositions, and clothed in the skins of wolves and bears. The Iroquois proved to be their bitter enemies. Warfare continued intermittently between these two tribes over a period of some years. The Susquehannocks finally became involved in warfare with the Maryland and Virginia settlers, and with the Iroquois, and through disease and rum, they became so reduced in numbers that as a tribe they practically ceased to exist after the year 1676. Some of the survivors of the Susquehannocks fled to Pennsylvania and took up residence on the Conestoga Creek in Lancaster County and have become known as the Conestoga Indians. The final remnants of this once powerful tribe living in Conestoga, Lancaster County, were murdered in 1763 by

some Scotch-Irish settlers known as the Paxtang Boys, and the Andastes, Susquehannocks or the Minquas became an extinct tribe. Most of the valuable relics of these Indians such as pictographs, burial places, and sites of villages have become lost either because of a deliberate disregard or wilful destruction by the white residents of these areas. A state-financed scientific expedition to certain sites made possible the preservation of some of their rock carvings and strange markings that may now be seen in the State Museum at Harrisburg.

The Iroquois constituted a powerful confederacy, exceedingly fierce and war-like, and much given to conquest. Their treatment of prisoners of war was horrible to say the least. One can scarcely imagine a type of cruelty that was not perpetrated upon such unfortunates. On the other hand, they also exhibited traits of kindness among the members of the tribe that are wholly unexpected among such people. The Iroquois engaged in a kind of primitive agriculture, they continued to live in villages in the same locality so long as the soil produced its meager crops, and wood remained to build their fires. This powerful confederacy was organized about the latter half of the sixteenth century. The Iroquois were almost constantly at war with their neighbors, even to the point of their extermination. The Algonquians at first were by far the stronger tribe but after a prolonged struggle between the Iroquois and the Algonquians, the latter were finally reduced to submission, and even certain of the tribes were practically exterminated.

The Delawares of the Lenni Lenape, for the most part, were reduced to submission by the fierce Iroquois. A number of these Indians finally withdrew from their territory, moved westward and took up residence in western Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Eries and the Wyandots who lived in western and northwestern Pennsylvania likewise experienced the sting of defeat at the hands of the Iroquois, and many of them fled to Ohio. These conquests occurred at the time settlements were being made along the Atlantic seaboard. The other Indian tribes were compelled to acknowledge the superiority of the Iroquois, and the noted chief Shikellamy was designated the over-lord or the vice-gerent of the subjugated tribes of Pennsylvania by the Iroquois Confederacy. The settlers soon discovered that they were no longer dealing with local tribes in land purchases and treaties but with the

powerful Iroquois Confederacy to the north as the conquerors of these local tribes.

The territory around the forks of the Susquehanna River was known by the name of Shamokin. This was the site of a large Indian village and served as an important trading center. The Indians in the Shamokin Village were a mixture of different tribes, the Algonquians, the Iroquois, and even the Dakotas or the Sioux were there. It is rather hard to explain the presence of the latter group since they were so far removed from their original hunting grounds. Oft times the Indian Village was thickly populated, while at other times it was all but deserted. It must be noted that the Indians around Shamokin were hard pressed by the growing settlements and they were constantly compelled to seek new hunting grounds as well as to defend what hunting grounds they already possessed.

In 1728 Shikellamy come to Shamokin as the representative of the Six Nations. He was the real friend of the English. The game around Shamokin was plentiful and the streams were full of fish. This enables us to understand just why Shikellamy made his home here and just why controversies relative to treaties and land purchases ultimately led to war.

Some Thoughts Concerning Their Ways of Living

Even at the risk of repeating some of the well-known facts about Indian life, one has to admit that the ways of living and their relationships with their fellow human beings provided some very wholesome teachings for the more favored white settlers. The Indians were governed largely by custom and tradition instead of by written laws. They always tended to follow customs rather than to make rules and regulations for the conduct of the members of the tribe. These customs were handed down from generation to generation by oral tradition. They were modified and added to from time to time by the rulings of the tribal councils. Quite the contrary to public opinion, the chief of the tribe had no absolute authority; he could not declare peace or war of his own accord; he could not engage in any business enterprise without the sanction of the council. Stealing was practically unknown among the Indians before the coming of the white man. The Indian did not get drunk until he learned to become a drunkard from the white traders. Murder was seldom committed, and when committed, the murderer was required to

pay the family of the murdered person for the losses sustained in the death of the family member, even to the extent of providing support for the dependents during their life time.

The Indian was highly disciplined for the game of war. He seldom opened a battle unless he saw great hopes to win. In battle, he often retreated in the thick of the fight not because of defeat but to gain a certain advantage in battle strategy or in the position of the terrain. While fighting, he wore no clothing except his moccasins and breechclout. Each man fought with an earnestness as though the outcome depended wholly on him. His sense of observation was almost uncanny. He possessed great knowledge of distance and direction, and depended on the sun, moon, and stars, as his infallible guides. He noticed things in the forests that ordinarily escaped the white man's observations. The Indians invariably followed the best, shortest, most advantageous trails through the forests. Upon the coming of the white man, they found it decidedly advantageous to use the same trails, many of which in course of time became our roads and highways.

The Indians believed all people had a right to the land with the exception of such lands as were already improved, and even this land belonged to this party only during the period of his occupancy. When the Indian moved to another section, he left his place behind and then it passed in like manner to its first possessor. If the original owner, however, returned to his first possessions in a short time, the property was again restored to him. Contrary to popular opinion, the Indians did not lead an extensive migratory life during the period of colonization at least not to the same great extent as they did before the coming of the white settlers. They were more or less permanently settled in the same locality. They lived in villages along some stream or lake where game and fish happened to be abundant. The Iroquois lived in large houses, either square or rectangular in shape. These houses were built of poles, bound together by strings of animal hides or by withes of green bark or young shoots or branches of trees. The sides of the house were made of bark with the peeled side turned inward so that the outside part would easily overlap. The fires were built in the center with an opening in the roof overhead for the smoke to escape. The floors were sometimes covered with animal skins and woven mats. In the winter nights, the

occupants slept with their feet toward the fire. The Algonquians likewise lived in houses but much smaller than those of the Iroquois. Their small size made them easier to be moved from place to place. So far as labor was concerned, the men had by far the better part of the bargain. The women did most of the work. When moving from one place to another, the women carried the burdens to enable the men to be free to use their weapons in case of an attack. At first the Indians killed game only as fast as the meat could be eaten and the skins used for clothing until he learned differently from the white people.

The Indians were noted for their hospitality. They believed the Great Spirit made the world for the good of everybody, and therefore, they shared their food and shelter with strangers and acquaintances alike. They believed the Great Spirit lived in all nature, in the forests, the trees, streams, the mountains, and valleys, since all these supplied them with the materials needed for a living. The children and youth entertained great respect for old age. When an aged Indian spoke, they remained silent. Promotion among the members of a tribe depended wholly upon merit and not on sheer expedience, good luck, or tribal intrigues. It has been said to the everlasting credit of the Indian that in many ways they practiced the simple virtues of life to such an extent that they put to shame much of the white man's boasted civilization.

How Many Indians Lived Around Here

Just how many Indians lived in this area 250 years ago, there is no way of knowing. Various estimates place the number in Pennsylvania approximately at 15,000. From that distant day on, they steadily decreased in numbers until in 1790 there were left only about 1,300. By the close of the American Revolution, there were probably none left in residence east of the Allegheny Mountain. War, pestilence, the rum traffic, and the coming of the white man have made inevitable the almost total disappearance of the Indians in Pennsylvania. The only Indians living today in Pennsylvania are the Cornplanters of Warren County. These Indians originally belonged to the Seneca tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy. Today they constitute only a very small population living on a grant of several hundred acres of land around the headwaters of the Allegheny River. This grant was made possible by a special act of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in

1796 in recognition of the services of their Chief Cornplanter (1732-1836) in behalf of peace and friendship in the Commonwealth.

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CHAPTER 8

Conrad Weiser and the Indian Chief Shikellamy

Friendship is the only thing in the world concerning the usefulness of which all mankind are agreed. — Cicero.

Every foot of the land in the Susquehanna Valley is historic. The unfortunate thing is the fact that so many of the people do not seem to realize it. If they did, there would not be so much manifest indifference to the glorious heritage of a great ancestry. Few persons of French and Indian War days have wielded as much influence for good in the settlers' relationships to the Indians as did Conrad Weiser. No citizen of the county can afford not to know the story of his life. Conrad Weiser holds a special place in the history of this locality because of the land-holdings by him and by members of the Weiser family, and because of their influence in the life of the community over a period of many years. For this reason a sketch of his life appears very appropriate in this history.

Parentage of Conrad Weiser

Conrad Weiser was a German by birth. He was born November 2, 1696, in the town of Gross-Aspach located in the ancient electorate of Wurtemberg, a part of the famous Palatinate Province of the Rhine Valley. He was one of a family of sixteen children. His mother died at the age of forty-three years. His father was John Conrad Weiser, a baker by trade, and a justice of the peace. He had attained some distinction by his military services. His parents were strict disciplinarians. From them young Conrad learned the lesson of obedience and self-control that stood him in such good stead later in life. At the time of Conrad's birth, Europe was in the throes of a great war. His native province was devastated by the French and Spanish, which made the stay of many of the inhabitants simply intolerable. In consequence many of them fled from the province to seek new homes on foreign shores.

The Weiser Family Emigrates to America

Among these refugees was John Conrad Weiser, who in 1709 fled from the Rhineland with eight of his children (four sons and four daughters) to Holland, from there to England, and finally embarked for America. The remaining eight children of the family either had died or had decided to remain in their native land. In

Holland they were refused permanent refuge. In England all these refugees imposed a heavy burden on the English government which evoked much criticism, not so much that they were provided a haven but that they were given too much consideration. This situation induced Queen Anne to seek ways and means to dispose of them by having them settle elsewhere. Some of her advisers proposed to have them sent to Wales to work in the mines. The queen refused on the ground that these German peasants were not miners but tillers of the soil. Others suggested that they be settled in the woodlands of England but again the queen refused on the ground that they were not foresters. Still others were of the opinion that they should be deported to Jamaica to develop the sugar industry but again the queen objected that the climate was not favorable. It was finally decided to send them to America to develop the tar, pitch, and resin industry, but this work never turned out to be profitable.

Queen Anne decreed that a certain portion of the New York Province should be the territory of these exiled Germans, but through the deception and trickery of the provincial governor, they failed to obtain the land assigned to them and instead had a heavy rent and tax imposed on them. On their voyage to America, it is reported that one-third of the passengers died. They first settled along the Hudson in what was then known as the Livingston Manor. There the family had to work for a while in payment for their transportation across the ocean. Later, in 1714, John Conrad Weiser succeeded in obtaining from the Indians certain lands in the Schoharie Valley, west of Albany, on which the family finally settled. But even here the Weiser family was not privileged to live in peace. Soon certain questions were raised about land titles by the Provincial Government, which were claimed could be adjusted only upon the payment of a rather exorbitant sum of money. Attempts were even made to evict the settlers. The settlers sought the aid of Queen Anne but she had died in the meantime and nothing apparently could be done to relieve the situation. Even delegates were sent to London to plead the case of the settlers but they met with no success.

From the Schoharie Valley to Tulpehocken

The Governor of Pennsylvania, knowing of their troubles, invited the settlers to come to Pennsylvania.

These settlers graciously accepted the invitation and moved by wagon road from the Schoharie Valley through the forests to the headwaters of the Susquehanna River. These hardy pioneers, fifteen families in all, floated down the river in canoes and rafts to the mouth of the Swatara Creek, and then up the creek until they came to the fertile valley of the Tulpehocken in what is now Heidelberg Township, and settled there in 1723. This place was about one-half mile east of the site of what is now the town of Womelsdorf. But even here, the settlers were not privileged to live in peace. No sooner had these German immigrants from the Schoharie Valley settled at Tulpehocken, then they were informed by the Indians that the land had never been sold to the whites. The dispute continued for nine years until the land was finally purchased from the Indians.

While the family still lived in the Schoharie Valley, a chief of the Five Nations visited the Weiser family in 1712. The chief became attached to young Conrad and succeeded in persuading the father to permit him to take the sixteen-year old son with him back to the Indians. This unusual permission was probably granted because of the friendliness of the Indians, the scarcity of food in the Weiser family, and particularly because of the son's unhappy relations with his step-mother. Conrad Weiser lived eight months with the Indians. This experience prepared him for his great work in life both as to building a strong physical physique, and in the mastery of the Indian tongue. He learned to understand the Indians, he became acquainted with the workings of their minds, he could speak their language, and he became conversant with Indian life, manners and customs. In short, he acquired the very training that equipped him to become the great interpreter and intermediary for the Indians and whites in their numerous disagreements.

In 1720 he married Anne Feg and had a family of fifteen children. It has been reported that she was a Mohawk Indian maiden but the evidence appears to be decidedly against this. It is more likely that she was an indentured servant girl whose name was not known or the family preferred not to have the facts known. Conrad Weiser's public life began in 1731, and from that time on, he was the officially recognized Indian interpreter and mediator between the Indians and the English and German settlers of Pennsylvania. The provinces

of Virginia, Maryland, and New York, employed him in a similar capacity. In like manner he was engaged by the Indians to represent them in their cause. In fact both Weiser and Shikellamy were invariably the intermediaries between the Pennsylvania Province and the Six Nations. Perhaps it is not too much to say that during these early days hardly any important transaction took place between the Indians and the Whites in which he was not prominent. As the years continued, Conrad Weiser became much more than an interpreter. He assumed the role of a diplomat engaged in formulating the colonial policy with respect to the Indians. His diplomatic skill and ability were truly tested in adjusting the differences that brought about the sacking on Great Island and the unfortunate killings of some Indians in Virginia.

How the Trouble With the Indians Began

The trouble with the Indians in Pennsylvania largely grew out of the sale of lands by certain tribes to the settlers without the sanction of the Six Nations. The Six Nations recognized the Pennsylvania territory as strategic, and therefore declared no lands could be sold by other tribes without their expressed approval. Since such tribes held the land only in trust, they could neither buy nor sell unless the Six Nations gave them permission. In other words, the Six Nations did not recognize the legality of any land sales made by any Indians who did not possess selling rights and privileges. This position applied particularly to the lands in the Susquehanna Valley. Many settlers had bought land from the Indians in good faith, and now some of these sales were declared not valid. This situation caused much ill-feeling between the white settlers and the Indians. At one time some 200 Indians arrived at Tulpehocken on their way to Philadelphia to confer with the provincial authorities about such matters. A war between the English and French was in preparation, and it was of the utmost importance to attain and to maintain friendly relations with the Indians lest they ally themselves with the French against the English. In other cases the Whites did not bother to buy the land and simply became squatters. This method of obtaining lands greatly aggravated the ill-feeling of the Indians toward the settlers. Such actions sometimes induced the Indians to resort to unfair practices as a matter of retaliation. For example,

the Delawares had sold land to the proprietors, and when the white settlers began to occupy the land, they exacted payment again for the land. This double-dealing led to the notorious Walking Purchase as a way of outsmarting the Indians but instead provided a good cause for further grievances. This explains the reason why Weiser found it necessary to make a trip to Wyoming to pacify the Shawnees and the Delawares, who had become angered by the outrageous Walking Purchase. These tribes had threatened to appeal this outrage to the Six Nations. It also explains why Weiser practically severed his relations with the Provincial Government at one time because he was far from pleased with some of the unfair practices in dealing with the Indians and preferred to have nothing further to do with public affairs. Lastly, the French incited the Indians to commit depredations and murder, and the settlers retaliated. It is easy to see why there was so much trouble between the settlers and the Indians, and why Conrad Weiser's patience and ingenuity were often taxed to the breaking point in his efforts to bring about an amicable settlement.

Conrad Weiser was the chief power in the treaty between the Six Nations and the Provincial Government, made in Philadelphia in 1732. In 1736 he travelled to Shamokin to greet fifteen chiefs of the Onondaga Council who were on the way to Philadelphia to settle certain differences. Weiser took charge of the group in their journey to Philadelphia. This was no mean task because of food, shelter, and the numerous settlements along the way. At this Philadelphia conference, the Six Nations released to the Whites the Susquehanna River with lands on both sides including the tributaries from the mouth of the river northward. For this they were given some guns, blankets, hats and trinkets, and the Indians were satisfied. The usual gifts were exchanged. Conrad Weiser was recognized by both Indians and the proprietors that he made his interpretations correctly, justly, and impartially, and both parties were satisfied. On the return home, the Indians tarried at Tulpehocken for ten days.

In the same year the Governor of Virginia wrote to the officials of the Pennsylvania Province requesting a conference at Williamsburg between the Six Nations and the Southern Indians for the purpose of bringing about

peace between the two groups. A war between the northern and southern Indians was considered disastrous to the settlers, especially to those in Virginia and the Carolinas since they became allied with the southern Indians. The Indians felt that a conference was practically out of the question because of the winter and poor roads at that season. The result was that in 1737 Conrad Weiser was sent to Onondaga, New York, for the purpose of bringing about a peace between the Iroquois and the Catawbias and the Cherokees. This was Conrad Weiser's first great mission and proved only partly successful. On the way he was to stop at Shamokin for an interview with Shikellamy and to request him to accompany him to Onondaga. The journey was about 500 miles through a trackless forest in the face of the greatest dangers. The result was that the Iroquois agreed to a truce and treaty but these were later rejected by the Southern Indians. The reason was that before Weiser and Shikellamy reached Onondaga, some Indians of the Six Nations had travelled south and had killed some Catawbias, and now the Southern Indians were bent on revenge. To keep the confidence of the Six Nations, the Provincial Government felt they had to be informed of the attitude of the Southern Indians, and Weiser was selected to go to Onondaga again. This he did in the latter part of 1737. In the meantime the Catawbias had murdered some men of the Six Nations, and war appeared inevitable.

In 1743 Weiser again visited Shikellamy and succeeded in making peace between Virginia and the Six Nations. In 1744 he arranged a meeting at Lancaster at which Maryland and Virginia bought out the land claims of the Iroquois. In May, 1745, Weiser visited Shikellamy again to adjust certain difficulties concerning the murder of three white men by the Delawares along the Juniata River. He also visited Onondaga in the hope of ending troubles that grew out of the Catawba War but did not succeed in this. In 1748 he paid a visit to Logstown on the Ohio to adjust problems with respect to the Indians allying themselves with the French or remaining the allies of the English. He experienced great difficulty to reconcile the differences even among the Indian tribes themselves, among them being the Delawares, Shawnees, Mohicans, Wyandots, and the Iroquois. The difficulty lay very largely in the fact that

they were very jealous of each other. He succeeded admirably in bringing about an adjustment of their differences and made them his friends by gift-giving. The Indians for the most part remained the friends of the English, the West was opened for settlements by the English, and the ground work laid for English control of the North American continent. This proved to be a remarkable accomplishment of Conrad Weiser. It ought to be said here that the French were far more ambitious to explore America and to get possession of the continent than were the English. They took more readily to the Indian language and customs than did the more conservative English. They held their confidence better and managed to capture a goodly portion of the trade with them. In fact the English did not like Indians and were reluctant to associate with them. This attitude proved most unfortunate and made the accomplishment of Conrad Weiser all the more brilliant. It is hard to conjecture what the course of events in the colonies would have been without the wise counsel, the diplomatic skill, and the unselfish labors of this man.

In the meantime Washington had made his memorable trip to the French forts in the West and Virginia troops had gone to the forks of the Ohio and started building a fort, but the French drove them away and completed it, calling it Ft. Duquesne. After Braddock's defeat on the Monongahela, the French with their Indian allies were more determined than ever to destroy the English colonists. The defeat had given them much encouragement. Ft. Granville on the Juniata River was captured by the Indians. This induced the settlers to withdraw from the Cumberland Valley. The English colonists were thrown into a state of consternation. Entire settlements were burned, many people were scalped or carried away as prisoners. Especially was this frequent during harvesting days; the men and women had to be protected by armed guards, so universal was the danger from Indian attacks. Massacres began to be rather commonplace, among them being the one along the Penn's Creek on October 16, 1755. For the common defence, a chain of forts was built along the frontier along the Blue or the Kittatinny Mountains, then known as the Endless Mountains, from the Susquehanna to the Delaware.

Upon the death of Shikellamy in 1748, old troubles

began to re-appear and new troubles made their appearance. The white settlers were resolved to begin settlements beyond the Juniata River and the Six Nations were determined that such a thing should not happen. The Six Nations claimed they had assigned all those lands to the Delawares and the Shawnees as hunting grounds, and therefore, all white settlers would be forbidden to enter. It must be said that the Provincial Government agreed to prohibit the Whites from entering, and undoubtedly did its best to keep the promise but failed. This greatly displeased the Indians. They felt the Whites were persistently infringing upon territory that did not belong to them since no purchase had been made. They seemed to be fair, however, since they were willing to sell certain lands so that these settlers would have a place to live. The task of removing the settlers was assigned to Richard Peters, the proprietary secretary, and Conrad Weiser. They started from Weiser's home, May, 1750, for John Harris' Ferry with little provisions save what they expected to get from the settlers whom they wished to evict. The party crossed the Tuscarora Mountains and arrived at a place along the Juniata River near the present site of Thompsontown. Here some of the settlers were arrested, and their cabins burned. This did not settle the dispute since some of the settlers had been encouraged to settle in these areas by the provincial government. The whole affair proved so conflicting and exasperating that Weiser returned home, and Peters soon after returned to Philadelphia evidently reporting to the authorities that evicting the settlers was altogether a futile affair. Weiser himself realized that the invasion by the settlers could not be stopped but it could be legalized by purchasing such lands on which settlements had already been made or were about to be made.

It was for this reason Weiser was most eager to purchase lands in Western Pennsylvania along the Ohio, knowing full well that emigration would be in that direction. Another difficulty confronted Weiser from another direction. Connecticut settlers were about to move into the Valley of Wyoming in large numbers. They claimed the lands had been purchased from the Mohawks while the Provincial Government refused to recognize any territorial rights of Connecticut in the Pennsylvania Province. It was thought the best thing to do was to forestall the Connecticut movement by inviting the Mor-

avians to settle in the valley. Even this proposal had its dangers since that territory had been assigned to the Delawares by the Six Nations in 1742, and might be the signal for a general uprising of the Indians. Such an outcome would be very dangerous in the face of the threatened conflict between the English and the French for the possession of the continent. Weiser succeeded, by the Albany Treaty, in bringing about the purchase of lands in Western Pennsylvania, and preserved the Wyoming Valley from invasion by the Connecticut settlers. It would probably have proved a permanent and peaceful settlement had not some French agents subsequent to this treaty gotten the Indian chiefs drunk and while in that condition induced them to affix their marks to the deed. Quite obviously this trick led to much bloodshed later on. The Connecticut settlers came to the valley despite the protests of the Pennsylvania Proprietors and in due time this led to the Wyoming Massacre in 1778.

The rum business played havoc among the Indians. The chiefs requested the traffic be stopped. Weiser agreed with the Indians but the liquor dealers plied their trade nevertheless. In 1755 Weiser was commissioned as colonel by Governor Morris. Weiser had many enemies as one might naturally expect, and at one time a reward was offered for his scalp. He probably had more influence with the Indians of the Susquehanna Valley than any other white man. Had it not been for his prudence, tact, and knowledge of Indian life, and integrity as a man, Pennsylvania would have had many more Indian Massacres and Indian Wars. He was the arbiter in many disputes between the white and the red men which otherwise would have ended in bloodshed. When the Mohawks and some of the Oneidas and Onondagas declared war against the French on the side of the English, the Governor of Massachusetts Colony tried to get the Pennsylvania Colony to join in the struggle against the French or at least send supplies to aid the Mohawks. When Weiser was consulted by the provincial authorities about the matter, he expressed his utter disapproval of aiding only one tribe without the general approval of the entire confederacy lest such manifest partiality would lead to trouble between the English and the Confederacy. He wisely counselled that matters that were the concern of

the whole confederacy should by no means be made the concern of just one of the tribes.

The Religious Interests of Conrad Weiser

Something ought to be said about Weiser's religious interests. To say the least, Conrad Weiser was a very religious man. He was active in church affairs at Reith's Church at Tulpehocken. He was an active member of the Lutheran congregation, held church offices, and even preached at times in the absence of the pastor. Weiser was disposed to be a mystic in religion. He was greatly interested in converting the Indians to Christianity. He participated in missionary tours throughout eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In 1738 he cooperated with two Moravian missionaries, Spangenberg and Zeisberger, in their program to convert the Indians. He even accompanied them to Onondaga. In 1742 Weiser accompanied Count Zinzendorf to Shamokin, Bethlehem, and Philadelphia. Weiser felt that missionaries should live among the Indians, learn their language, translate the Bible into their tongue, and adapt church hymns to Indian tunes. Weiser spent three months teaching three men the Mohawk language in order to qualify them to preach the Gospel to the Indians.

One of the strangest episodes in the eventful life of Conrad Weiser was his connections with the Seventh Day Baptists at Ephrata from 1735 to 1743. This sect believed that the seventh day of the week should be observed as the Sabbath, that its members should live a monastic life of great self-denial, and that the marriage relation was wrong. Rev. John Peter Miller served as the pastor of the Reformed congregation at Tulpehocken; the Lutherans at the time did not have a regular pastor, but both congregations worshipped together in the same building (Reith's). While Weiser was a Lutheran, he was a very warm friend of Rev. Miller. In course of time, John Beissell, the founder of the sect, visited Tulpehocken, and as a result Weiser and Miller, and several others withdrew from the Reith's Congregations and united with the Ephrata sect. The withdrawal of these prominent members from the Tulpehocken Congregations proved a severe blow to that church and caused no little stir. These persons were severely criticised for their action. Rev. John Peter Miller bore the criticisms with patience but Conrad Weiser often struck back with

considerable vehemence. It is said that on a certain day Weiser met the Reformed Church pastor of the Colalico Congregation, who was riding a horse, and not being on friendly relations with him, undertook to reprimand him, suggesting that he evidently considered himself superior to the Savior who had been humble enough to ride an ass. It is said the pastor retorted that since the Governor had appointed all the asses in the community justices of the peace, there wasn't any ass to be had, and therefore he was compelled to ride a horse instead. This incident is supposed to have happened in 1741, shortly after Weiser had been appointed a justice of the peace. For some time Weiser was in ill repute with his people on account of these idiosyncrasies pertaining to religion. He had done the very thing that the Lutherans had not anticipated he would do. The people became greatly incensed about his withdrawal from the Orthodox church to become affiliated with a sect.

In fact the feeling against Weiser ran so high that on the night of October 15, 1744, more than a year after his affiliation with the Ephrata sects, a number of people bent on revenge tried to burn his home at Womelsdorf. The culprits fastened the doors and windows, and then placed a pile of straw on the porch and set it on fire. The family was awakened in time to save themselves and their home. Conrad Weiser never fully regained the confidence of the people of his community. He was a candidate for the General Assembly, and waged a vigorous campaign for his election, but was badly defeated.

During the eight years that Conrad Weiser lived the life of a monk, he took his new religion with a zeal bordering on fanaticism. He destroyed his catechism, psalter, and other devotional books. He contributed generously of his means for the support of the sect. He adopted the practices of the sect and allowed his beard to grow and "did works of penance" for his sins. In the course of time, his ardor for the sect declined, largely because of disagreements between him and Beissell and their suspicions of each other. It could not have been otherwise because of Beissell's arrogance, his claims of spiritual insight and superhuman authority, and Weiser's outspoken manner and his accustomed exercise of authority among the people of his community. Weiser also was not pleased with the way the Ephrata Community was governed and was not satisfied with some of the

doctrines. As a monk, Conrad Weiser was out of his element, and he soon discovered it, withdrew from Ephrata, and returned to his family again.

Just what his relations were with his family, and how much time he spent with them during those eight years when he was an Ephrata monk cannot be definitely known. At the time he united with the Ephrata sect, he was accompanied by his wife and eight children. Mrs. Weiser and six of the children soon returned to their home at Womelsdorf. A son and daughter remained and became members. The daughter died in 1742 and the son withdrew soon after his father. It is very evident, however, that Weiser spent much of his time with his family at Womelsdorf while a member of the Ephrata Community. His dealings with the Provincial Government and the Indians must have demanded much of his time. His duties as justice of the peace and court official required his constant care and attention. All these activities kept crowding in upon him so that he may have neglected some of his religious duties at the cloisters. Probably here lies the explanation why Conrad Weiser at one time was severely disciplined for the violation of the rules of the Ephrata Community.

It is really difficult to understand just why a man of Conrad Weiser's good judgment and intelligence should be attracted to a man like John Beissell with his behavior inconsistencies and mental vagaries. Of course a man is largely the product of his times and reflects the spirit of the age in which he lives. Just why Conrad Weiser ever turned temporarily away from the Lutheran Church is difficult to say. Suffice to say that he lived a hard life, the world had been cruel to him, and he was willing to turn anywhere for relief and comfort. He had lost a godly mother when but a boy and his stepmother was far from a mother to him. Weiser came to Tulpehocken at the age of thirty-three when little emphasis was placed on the church and religion. Weiser was a very religious man, not narrow-minded denominationally but sympathetically tolerant with other denominations. Probably he didn't know enough of the doctrines and the ways of living, before he agreed to become affiliated with the sect, or he would never have united with it. During all those troublous days at Reith's, Weiser was active in the business affairs of the congregation. It appears that Weiser was considered a member of the Lutheran Congre-

gation at Tulpehocken during the years (1735-1743) he was connected with the Ephrata Community. Why did Weiser withdraw from Ephrata? Several reasons have been advanced. He stayed for some time in the cloister, surrendered himself to its principles, but finally withdrew, convinced that while God had made the world, the ways of the world were imperfect, instead of escaping from the world he resolved to live in it and do what he could to improve its ways. There is no gainsaying but that Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg had something to do with it and with his return to the Lutheran Church at Tulpehocken. The differences in the Tulpehocken Church brought Muhlenberg to that section and into contact with the Weiser family. Weiser and Muhlenberg at once found they had many things in common, and in due time Muhlenberg became his son-in-law. No doubt the Rev. John Peter Miller, the pastor of the Reformed congregation at Reith's, wielded considerable influence. Weiser held him in high esteem and they were warm friends. To say the least, Weiser found himself as a monk out of his natural element and returned to ways of living that appeared to him more nearly normal and consistent with his life and character.

An Attempted Evaluation of Conrad Weiser

The reader of Weiser's biography gets the impression that Weiser was not privileged to enjoy his home and family life and to look after his own business affairs for any length of time. He was much occupied in civil affairs such as road-viewer and overseer of the poor, the school, church, and judicial matters, the management of his own estate at Tulpehocken, and all his activities with Indian affairs thrown in for good measure. In 1741 he was commissioned a justice of the peace in Lancaster County, the office that both his father and grandfather had filled in his native Germany. His services were continually sought, not only by his own colonial government but also repeatedly by New York, Maryland, and Virginia. Always something in the White-Indian relationships had gotten out of control and demanded the attention of a wise counsellor, a skilled diplomat, and a man with genuine brotherhood convictions. His private and public life represent him as a truly great character in colonial history. He was a great Indian agent for the colonial government. Often his time and attention were devoted to other affairs when he personally much

preferred to live in the serenity and peace of his own family fireside. His patience and skill were often tested to the limit but he remained calm and self-possessed under the most trying circumstances. He was asked to do things that appeared often beyond human ability and endurance, and yet he succeeded in most of these ventures remarkably well. No wonder at one time he declared that he was much perplexed with Indian affairs and could not say just what would be best. But there was only one Conrad Weiser in his day, and there was so much work to be done that only Conrad Weiser himself could do. It was most fortunate that colonial authorities in the main realized this situation, otherwise the story of Colonial America would undoubtedly have been otherwise. No wonder Washington, when standing at Weiser's grave, remarked "Posterity will not forget his services".

During the last five years of his life, his health was poor, and a son served as his substitute with respect to business matters, especially those pertaining to the Indians and the colonists. He died July 2, 1760, at the age of sixty-five years, and was buried at Womelsdorf. His wife died in 1781, twenty-one years later, and was buried beside her husband. His seven surviving children were five sons, Philip, Frederick, Peter, Samuel, and Benjamin, and two daughters, Anna Maria married to Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and Margaret. One of the sons of Philip was Conrad who had a family of twelve children. Three of his children were Benjamin, John Conrad, and Daniel. Rev. Daniel Weiser, the son of Conrad Weiser, Jr., and a great grandson of the Indian Interpreter, served as pastor of the German Reformed Church of Selinsgrove (1824-1833). Different members of the Weiser family lived around Selinsgrove and became a definite part of the life and history of the community. Much of the land around Selinsgrove was owned at one time or another by members of the Weiser family. Conrad Weiser, Sr., at one time owned the Isle of Que. It is reported that much of the land was obtained from the Indians in payment for services rendered them by him. Conrad Weiser, Jr., (1749-1803) a grandson of the Interpreter, owned the land, later owned by John Peter Richter near Selinsgrove, and the Isle of Que to Fisher's Ferry.

Anecdotes Associated With Weiser and Shikellamy

Tradition connects three very interesting anecdotes

with Conrad Weiser's relationship with the Indians. Irrespective of whether they are fact or fable, they deserve to be kept part of the social inheritance of the community. The first one is told as having occurred between Weiser and the Indian Chief Shikellamy. Shikellamy is supposed to have remarked to Conrad Weiser:

"I had a dream. I dreamed that you promised me a rifle." Weiser forthwith handed over the gun to Shikellamy. Some days later, Weiser told Shikellamy that he also had a dream. He said: "I dreamed that you presented me with this large and beautiful island nestled in the Susquehanna River." Not to be outdone, Shikellamy presented Weiser with the land, and then is reported to have said: "Conrad, let us dream no more."

The second anecdote provides an interesting and very significant illustration of the way the white people got possession of the Indian's Land.

When Conrad Weiser was sitting on a log, an Indian stealthily approached and seated himself very close to him. In the course of the conversation, the Indian repeatedly requested Weiser to move further in order to give him more room. At last Weiser reached the end of the log and could move no further, but the Indian still kept up his request for more room. Weiser then demanded an explanation for his selfish conduct. It is said the Indian replied: "So the white people do to the Indians. They came unbidden to our land and took it from us. We moved on and they followed us. We continued to move and still they followed. We are still moving and they are still following. I will not push you off the log entirely. But will you not stop crowding us before we roll into the water?"

The third anecdote concerns itself with a conversation that Weiser had with an Indian. As the story goes, Weiser called at the wigwam of an Indian whom he had known for some years. The Indian embraced Weiser, spread furs for him to sit on, placed before him some boiled beans and venison, and mixed some rum with water for him to drink. When Weiser was well refreshed, and had lighted his pipe, the Indian began to converse with Weiser. He asked Weiser how he had fared since they last had seen each other, whence he then came, and what occasioned the journey. Weiser answered all his questions, and when the conversation began to flag, the Indian thus continued:

Conrad, you have lived long among the white people, and know something about their customs. I have been sometimes at Albany, and have observed that once in seven days they shut up their shops, and assemble in the great house; tell me what that is for; what do they do there. Conrad replied, They meet there to hear and to learn good things. The Indian replied, I do not doubt that they tell you so;

they have told me the same, but I doubt the truth of what they say, and I will tell you my reasons. I went lately to Albany to sell my skins and to buy blankets, knives, powder and rum. You know I used generally to deal with Hans Hansom, but I was a little inclined this time to try other merchants. However, I called first upon Hans and asked him what he would give for beaver. He said he could not give more than four shillings a pound. 'But,' says he, 'I cannot talk on business now; this is the day when we meet together to learn good things, and I am going to the meeting'. So I thought to myself, since I cannot do any business to-day, I may as well go to the meeting too, and so I went with him. There stood up a man in black and began to talk to the people very angrily; I did not understand what he said, but perceiving he looked much at me, and at Hansom, I imagined he was angry at seeing me there, so I went out, lighted my pipe; and waited till the meeting should break up. I thought, too, that the man had mentioned something of beaver, and suspected it might be the subject of the meeting. So when they came out, I accosted my merchant: 'Well, Hans, I hope you have agreed to give more than four shillings a pound. 'No,' says he, 'I cannot give so much; I cannot give more than three shillings and sixpence.' I then spoke to several other dealers, but they all sang the same song, three and sixpence, three and sixpence. This made it clear to me that my suspicion was right; and that whatever they pretended of meeting to learn good things, the purpose was to consult how to cheat Indians in the price of beaver. Consider but a little, Conrad, and you must be of my opinion. If they met so often to learn good things, they would certainly have learned some before this time. But they are still ignorant. You know our practice. If a white man, travelling through our country, enters one of our cabins, we all treat him as I do you; we dry him if he is wet; we warm him if he is cold; and we give him meat and drink, that he may allay his thirst and hunger; and we spread soft furs for him to rest and sleep on; we demand nothing in return. But if I go into a white man's house in Albany, and ask for victuals and drink, they say get out, you Indian dog. You see they have not yet learned those little good things that we need no meetings to be instructed in because our mothers taught them to us when we were children; and therefore it is impossible their meetings should be, as they say, for any such purpose, or have any such effect. They are only to contrive the cheating of Indians in the price of beaver.

The Indian Chief Shikellamy

It is not possible to give an adequate account of the relationship between the Indians and the white settlers of the Susquehanna Valley without considering the life and labors of Shikellamy. Much of the Indian lore of this portion of Pennsylvania centers around this famous Indian chief. Shikellamy was probably the most influential Indian chief of his day. His name will always be remembered in connection with other Indian Chiefs such as Powhattan, King Phillip, Pontiac, Tecumseh,

Geronimo, Joseph, and Sitting Bull. It is perhaps not too much to say that Shikellamy possessed the virtue of all of these chiefs and hardly any of their vices. In fact it is difficult to conjecture what the history of the pioneer settlements would have been without his friendly counsel and good-will influence in the adjustment of the difficulties and in the settlement of land disputes between the Indians and the whites. He was a great benefactor to the people of his day and his name stands revered for what he did and for what he stood during the critical period of colonial history.

Our knowledge of Shikellamy is rather limited. There are differences of viewpoints as to his nationality. Some writers claim that originally he was a Susquehannock and when this tribe was conquered by the Iroquois, he was adopted by the Oneidas as a distinguished warrior according to the common custom of the conquerors to replenish the losses sustained in their many wars; others claim that Shikellamy was a native Cayuga; while still others go so far as to state that he was an adopted Frenchman of the Oneida tribe. Whichever claim may ultimately be confirmed, the fact remains that Shikellamy was an extraordinary Indian in his day and an excellent intermediary between his race and the Whites.

Shikellamy as the Spokesman of the Indians

Before the days of the French and Indian War (1689-1763), the Five Nations controlled the greater part of the land from the Great Lakes to the Carolinas and westward beyond the borders of Pennsylvania. After the tribes in the Susquehanna Valley had been overcome by the Iroquois, the conquered tribes were privileged very largely to manage their own affairs. This situation continued until the Valley of Wyoming was sold by the Mohawks to the Connecticut settlers. It should be recalled that the Mohawks had taken no part in the conquest of the tribes of the Susquehanna Valley. This transfer of land to the whites awakened the Iroquois Confederacy to a realization of the dangers of the increasing encroachments of the settlers and the great desirability of keeping the valley for themselves. The Confederacy declared that hereafter no lands were to be disposed of except by its permission. All such business transaction had to be carried on through an authorized representative of the Confederacy. In the year 1728 Shikellamy was authorized to be the deputy for all such transactions, and for

that purpose he made the seat of his government at the forks of the Susquehanna. Shikellamy was to have general oversight over the Shawnees, the Delawares, the Nanticokes, the Conoys, and the Conestogas. It appears that he held a locality somewhere along the West Branch toward the south of the present site of Milton as an additional residence and seat of government. At Central Oaks Heights was placed a marker, in 1921, by the Union County Historical Society to designate the site of Shikellamy's Old Town where he was visited by Conrad Weiser in 1737. It appears that the plain stretching south-east of the ridge was the location of the Indian village. When Shikellamy was appointed vice-gerent of the Iroquois Confederacy in 1745, he apparently made Shamokin his headquarters until his death in 1748.

Shikellamy was the representative spokesman for the different Indian tribes in their tribal relationships with the settlers, while Conrad Weiser, the noted Indian Interpreter, was the counsellor for the settlers and the Colonial Government. Conrad Weiser and Shikellamy first met in the woodlands of New York on a hunting trip, and because Weiser could speak his language, they became fast friends and remained so until Shikellamy's death in 1748. They together shaped to a large extent the relationships of the Indians and settlers during the Colonial Period. Shikellamy proved a firm friend of the whites and as long as he lived, the dove of peace reigned over the valley of the Susquehanna. This is an accomplishment unparalleled by any other of the colonies.

We find Shikellamy present at numerous conferences held at Philadelphia, Lancaster, Tulpehocken, Bethlehem, and Onondaga, between 1728-1748. At the Philadelphia Conference in July, 1728, and again in October of the same year, Shikellamy expressed his bitter opposition to the sale of rum to the Indians. So bad was this rum traffic by 1731 that Shikellamy declared that if the traffic would not be better regulated and controlled, friendly relations would have to be terminated between the Indians and the Whites. As one Indian of that day put it:

The strong liquor was first sold to us by the Dutch, and they are blind; they have no eyes, they did not see it was for our hurt. The next people that came among us were the Swedes who continued the sale of liquor to us; they also were blind, they had no eyes. When we drink, it makes us mad. Seven score of our people have been killed by reason

of drink. These people who sell it have no eyes. Now there is a people called Quakers who have come to live among us that have eyes; they see it to be for our hurt; they are willing to deny themselves the profit of it for our good. These people have eyes.

An Observation by an Indian in 1687.

In this trying ordeal, the French put forth every effort to alienate the Indians from the English settlers. The Governor of the Province found it expedient to send Shikellamy to Onondaga on an errand of good-will with presents, and with an invitation for representatives of the Six Nations to be present at a council in Philadelphia. Shikellamy reported the outcome of his mission to the Provincial Government at a meeting in Philadelphia, December, 1731, with Conrad Weiser serving as interpreter, to the effect that delegates would not come until the following spring because of the winter and the difficulty in traveling at that season of the year. For some reason the meeting was delayed until August, 1732, when it was officially agreed to have Shikellamy and Conrad Weiser serve as the official intermediaries between the Six Nations and the Proprietary Government. Both Shikellamy and Conrad Weiser served as adjustors of the many disputes between the Whites and the Indians, not only of Pennsylvania but of the other colonies. The sources of irritation were numerous and the squatters proved the source of much of the trouble. Then there was the imminent danger of the Iroquois uniting with the French in a war against the colonists. A conference was held again at Philadelphia, in 1736, attended by more than a hundred representatives of the Six Nations. At this conference the Indians agreed to give up all lands south and east of the Blue Mountains.

Conrad Weiser was a frequent visitor of Shikellamy at Shamokin. Consideration was given to these visits in the account of Conrad Weiser. In 1745, the Six Nations at Onondaga designated Shikellamy as a vicegerent of all the tribes of the Susquehanna Valley. This made inevitable that whatever peaceful relations might be obtainable would be possible only through the assistance of Shikellamy. His influence must have been very great and his territorial sovereignty undisputed according to a notation in the JOURNAL of John Hagen for 1747. Hagen was a Moravian missionary, and he had the following to say about the Indian Chief:

Shikellamy, at this date, is emperor over all the kings and governors of the Indian nations on the Susquehanna.

Shikellamy is frequently referred to as a kindhearted Indian, exceedingly sagacious but ever dignified. He thought very well of the Moravians. He made a journey to Bethlehem to visit them. He craved for their company. Shikellamy did not have much in common with many of the Indians, and so he longed for the associations of people more given to right living. The Indians indulged too much in drinking and bad living to suit him. To the everlasting credit of the Moravians, he was treated by them with the spirit of a common brotherhood. This was greatly appreciated, since, at the time, Shikellamy was mourning the loss of members of his own immediate family. The threats of war greatly disheartened him, the dishonest practices of so many of the white traders annoyed him, and he saw the handwriting of doom upon his race. All these problems and sorrows were too grievous to be borne, and so Shikellamy died before his time.

The Last Days and Death of Shikellamy

An account of the last days and death of Shikellamy will now be in order. While he held a position of great responsibility and influence during the last twenty years of his life, it appears that he was practically destitute in his latter days. Although he held a position of great prominence and influence, he was compelled to make his own living as any other Indian, depending upon his own labors for food and shelter. Shikellamy's life was saddened by the frequent deaths in his own immediate family. He lost three of his sons in war, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, and a grandchild. When Conrad Weiser visited him at Shamokin in October, 1747, he found him sick of a fever and ague. He had the following to say of Shikellamy's destitute condition:

I must at the conclusion of this, recommend Shikellamy as a proper object of charity. He is extremely poor; in his sickness, the horses have eaten all his corn; his clothes he gave to the Indian doctors to cure him and his family, but all in vain; he has nobody to hunt for him, and I cannot see how the poor old man can live. He has been a true servant to the government, and may perhaps still be, if he lives to be well again. As the winter is coming on, I think it would not be amiss to send him a few blankets or match coats, and a little powder and lead, if the government would be pleased to do it and you could send it up soon. I would send my sons to Shamokin before the cold weather comes.

It is indeed heartening to learn from the early rec-

ords that the Provincial Council took cognizance of Weiser's recommendations, and sent him the materials of which he was so much in need. So far as Shikellamy's health at this time was concerned, Conrad Weiser made the following observations:

I was surprised to see Shikellamy in such a miserable condition as ever my eyes beheld. He was hardly able to stretch forth his hand to bid me welcome; in the same condition was his wife, his three sons not quite so bad but very poorly; also one of his daughters and two or three of his grandchildren all had the fever.

With medicine administered by Weiser, Shikellamy recovered so far that when Weiser made his departure, he could walk about "with a stick in his hand". In the following months we are told that Shikellamy had so far regained his health that he visited Weiser at Tulpehocken, and in the following spring, he visited the colonial officials at Philadelphia. During the summer months, we are told he wasn't well again. In December, he made a trip to Bethlehem but upon his return he suddenly fell sick again and died December 17, 1748. He was survived by three sons and a daughter. The colonial governors lamented his death and the settlers felt that they had lost a true friend. Shikellamy had a real interest in the Christian faith and showed this interest in his human relationships. Tradition says that he had been baptized in a Jesuit Mission in Canada while in his infancy. Count Zinzendorf, a Moravian missionary, by whom he was converted to Christianity, visited Shikellamy in 1742. Shikellamy was buried, according to the rites of the Moravian church, in the old Indian burial grounds on the east side of the river almost directly opposite the profile, Conrad Weiser was notified of the chief's death, and he in turn reported the sad news to the Provincial authorities at Philadelphia. A marker along the river road in Sunbury near Fort August has been placed there in memory of Shikellamy. Standing on the spot, a person's imagination can readily construct the rocky profile of the Indian Chief on the face of the precipice of Blue Hill on the opposite side of the Susquehanna River.

Upon the death of Shikellamy, western Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley became the center of Indian activity rather than the Susquehanna Valley. Shikellamy's oldest son succeeded him in authority but never attained

the esteem and the distinguished position held by the father. A younger son by the name of Logan lived for some time in what is now known as Mifflin County. Later he lived on the banks of the Ohio River, a few miles below the present site of Wellsville. Finally, he met death by murder in 1781.

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CHAPTER 9

Indian Troubles in the Territory now known as Snyder County and the Adjacent Areas

Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot that it does singe
thyself—Shakespeare.

The Primary Cause of the Troubles

The troubles between the white settlers and the Indians originated from a number of different causes. Like most controversies between individuals, groups, and even nations, these causes were far from being one-sided. There is an old saying that it takes two to bring about a disagreement. No doubt the Whites were responsible to some extent for the savagery manifested by the Indians. The Indians lived here before the white people came, and there can be little wonder that they looked upon the white settlements as encroachments upon their own territory. The land was owned by the Indians and so acknowledged by the government and Whites in common. Much of the trouble between the Whites and the Indians developed out of conflicting land claims. It is not difficult to see how this came about. If each of the two parties had been a united body with a centralized power authorized to carry on all negotiations with the other, most of the land disputes would probably never have occurred. But with many different groups, each acting at least to some extent on its own initiative and often without the knowledge of the other, conflicting land claims developed that frequently foreboded serious trouble. Again, if all these practices had been carried on in the spirit of justice and fair-dealing, the Whites and the Indians would have gotten along much better together. The infamous walking-purchase is a good example of how the Whites sometimes took advantage of the Indians. There is no gainsaying but that the settlers frequently cheated the Indians out of their land. In such ways the land claims became a matter of great dispute.

More than three centuries ago, the territory known as Pennsylvania was the undisputed possession of the Indians. Their claim to the land was unquestioned even by the proprietaries of the Province. They duly acknowledged the rightful claim of the Indians to the

land as their hunting ground. They believed no part of the land should be taken from the Indians for settlements except through purchase. When European immigrants began to arrive in America, proclamations were issued by the government authorities appealing to them to respect these claims of the original ownership of the land, but in too many cases these appeals fell on deaf ears. These daring adventurers wanted land at all hazards, and neither the threats of fines and imprisonments by the government nor the fear of the tomahawk and the scalping knives of the Indians, would restrain them from building their cabins and clearing the forests of lands that were still the acknowledged property of the aborigines. These white settlers who settled on lands unpurchased from the Indians, despite their protests and warnings, were known as squatters. The government tried at various times to dispossess the squatters but never succeeded to any appreciable degree. This failure on the part of the government encouraged more settlers to become squatters. Then the Indians, bent on revenge, began to lay waste these frontier settlements and to massacre the inhabitants.

As early as 1682 certain lands were ceded to William Penn by the Delaware Indians. The negotiations were carried on by William Markham, the Deputy Governor of the Province. Thomas Dongan, Governor of the Province of New York, claimed lands south of his province by purchase from certain Indians, among them being the Delawares, and leased portions of the land in the Susquehanna Valley to William Penn in 1696. William Penn paid one hundred pounds for these lands. The Susquehannock Indians, who occupied the lower portion of the Susquehanna Valley, were induced to confirm the lease upon the payment of goods for them of a certain amount. By the provisions of the lease, the Indians agreed to transfer to William Penn "all that land lying upon both sides of the river commonly called or known by the name of Susquehanna" for 1000 years at "an annual rental of one pepper corn". The pepper corn was the dried berry of the black pepper. The expression has really come to mean something of little or no value. These Indians evidently became dissatisfied with this transfer, for in 1701 an article of agreement was drawn up between Penn and the Susquehannock Indians confirming the sale of 1696. This was followed in 1718

by the transfer of all the territory between the Delaware and the Susquehanna Rivers.

Nothing more was heard of land disputes until the great council in Philadelphia in 1736. The Six Nations disputed the rights of any transfer of lands made by conquered tribes. They refused to recognize any of these concessions. They claimed they alone had the right to these lands by conquest. Since they had conquered the Delawares and the Susquehannocks, they questioned the claimed ownership by the settlers of all of these lands. They refused to recognize the legality of any land transaction made by purchase, treaty, lease, or otherwise between the subjugated tribes and the settlers. They asserted that all the territory of the Susquehanna River belonged to them and that the white people had no right to settle there. It must be recalled that the governor of New York also claimed certain lands in the province on the grounds of purchase from the tribes. William Penn himself claimed the land from Charles I as a payment of debt, and by lease from Governor Dongan. This state of affairs made inevitable conflicting land claims by both parties to any land ownership.

In the hope of effecting an adjustment of these conflicting land claims, a conference was called in Philadelphia in June, 1736. The meeting was attended by a large number of representatives from the different groups involved in the land dispute. Conrad Weiser and the Indian Chief Shikellamy were present with twenty-three representatives from the Six Nations, and seventeen representatives from the settlers. Here the Six Nations agreed to release to the proprietors all their claims to the Susquehanna Valley territory from the mouth of the Susquehanna River to the Kittatinny Mountains upon the payment of an additional amount in the form of various kinds of goods.

In 1749 additional lands were purchased from the Six Nations. Despite the conditions of this purchase and the treaty of 1736, settlers took up lands in the Indian-owned territory north of the Kittatinny or Blue Mountains in the Susquehanna Valley along the tributaries of Penn's Creek and Middle Creek. The Indians vigorously protested against these encroachments of the white settlers or squatters on their lands west of the Susquehanna River and north of the Juniata River. As the trouble with the Indians continued to increase through

the increased activities of these squatters, there developed a growing conviction that the only way out of the difficulty was through the purchase of all lands from the Indians before any settlements were begun on them. By the provisions of the Albany Treaty, July 6, 1754, between the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania and the Six Nations, a large area of land in Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River was purchased. This area included the territory embracing portions of the present counties of Snyder, Union, Centre, Franklin, and Somerset Counties, and all of the counties of Perry, Juniata, Mifflin, Huntington, Blair, Bedford, and Fulton. The purchase probably included even the territory of the State lying westward of these counties. The north line started from a point about a mile above the old mouth of Penn's Creek, and extended north 45° west, across the West Branch a short distance above the mouth of the Sinnemahoning River to a point on Lake Erie a few miles from the City of Erie. Later in September of that year, the Indians, at a conference at Aughwick, confessed that they had not understood the meaning of the points of the compass to signify that the valley of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and adjacent territory were included in the purchase, and therefore, could not agree to the provisions of the treaty in this respect. These provisions of the treaty were modified later so as to satisfy the Indians, and the purchase was confirmed by them at a treaty made at Easton, Pa., October 23, 1758.

The sale of all these lands in the valleys of the Susquehanna and the Juniata Rivers by the Six Nations to the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania greatly incensed the Delaware Indians on the grounds that this territory had been given to them by the Six Nations for their hunting grounds, and therefore they had no right to sell the land as places for settlement by the Whites. Deprived now of much of their land through the sale, not having received any portion of the selling price, and not daring to show displeasure toward the Six Nations, the Delawares became increasingly determined to wreak their vengeance upon the English settlers. General Braddock's defeat on the Monongahela River, July 9, 1755, provided the opportunity for action. The Delawares and the Shawnees allied themselves with the French, crossed the Alleghenies, and began to attack the frontier settlements, burning the cabins and murdering the people. Among

the first to be attacked in this area were the settlements along Penn's Creek, October 16, 1755. During the Revolutionary War Period, especially during the four years following the Wyoming Valley Massacre (1778-1782), bands of Indians invaded at intervals Snyder County and the adjacent areas. Wherever these Indians appeared in Middle Creek Valley, Penn's Creek Valley, and Buffalo Creek Valley, as well as in the immediate areas, they murdered some of the inhabitants, carried others into captivity, and plundered their property. None of these Indians had a permanent abode around here; they simply were roving bands making predatory expeditions, and after they had accomplished their ends, they immediately withdrew and returned to their own lands. Accounts will now be given of the different places of defense against attacks by these Indians.

A Chain of Forts for the Common Defense

When these bloody massacres were being perpetrated, a chain of forts was built for the common defense extending from the Delaware River to Wills' Creek (Cumberland, Maryland). Among them were Ft. Augusta at the forks of the Susquehanna, Fts. McKee, Halifax, and Hunter, along the Susquehanna; Fts. Patterson and Granville in the Juniata Valley; and several other forts in the Tuscarora Valley and nearby regions.

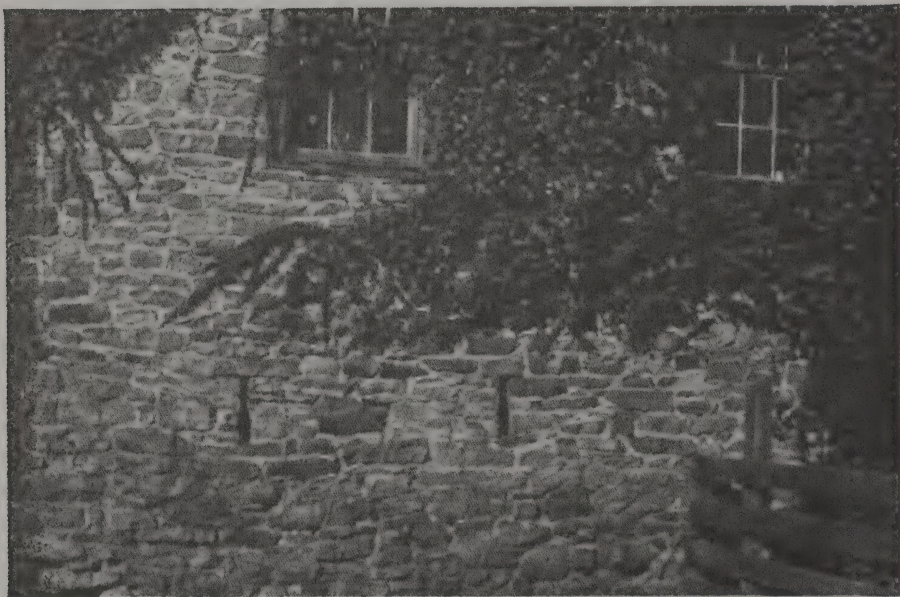
Fort Pomfret Castle at Richfield

The primary interest in this chain of forts centers in the Fort Pomfret Castle on the north side of the Mahantango Creek in Snyder County. Fort Pomfret Castle has been the center of controversy among historical writers for some years. Much of what has been written about it either accepts it as an historical fact or throws doubt as to whether the fort existed at all. Let us now consider the facts so far as we know them.

On December 17, 1755, a commission consisting of Benjamin Franklin and others instructed George Crogan to select sites and arrange for the construction of three stockades west of the Susquehanna River. One stockade was to be "back of Patterson's", one on the Kishacoquillas Creek, and another one near Sideling Hill. The stockades were to be fifty feet by fifty feet with a block house on two corners and barracks large enough to accommodate fifty men. The proposed stock-



Pomfret Castle, 1756



Details of Castle Showing Portholes

ade on the Kishacoquillas Creek was never built, but a stockade known as Ft. Granville was erected instead, at a spring on the banks of the Juniata River about a mile above the present site of Lewistown. The location of the spring was destroyed during the time of the construction of the canal along the Juniata. It appears that the proposed stockade "back of Patterson's" on the Juniata at Mexico, was to be on Mahantango Creek near Richfield and was to be erected by Colonel James Burd and Captain Patterson. The official letters dealing with these facts are often misleading in content and conflicting in dates. The paymaster at Ft. Granville was instructed to go to "Pomfret Castle or Patterson's Fort". This carries with it an ambiguity signifying that either the one fort was known by two different names or it might mean that if he did not consider it expedient to go to the one, he should then visit the other. It might also simply be an error in printing. Such confusing statements have led some historians to believe that the name Pomfret Castle was applied to Patterson's Fort near the town of Mexico in Juniata County, and that the proposed one on Mahantango Creek was never built; while other historians assert that there were two forts by the name of Patterson, and that the one known as Pomfret Castle was often referred to as the second Ft. Patterson. The controversy does not center in whether a fortification known as Pomfret Castle was ever planned to be built in that section. That is generally accepted as a fact by historians. The controversy rages around the question of whether it was ever built at all. Much of the controversy has resulted from confusing Pomfret Castle with Ft. Patterson in the Juniata Valley near the site of the present town of Mexico.

The place called Pomfret Castle was known among the oldest residents as an old Indian outpost during the French and Indian War. Later it was simply referred to as "Philip S. Winey's spring house with the port holes in it", located about a half-mile north of Richfield. There are no records to tell us definitely who built it or when it was built. The upper portions of the building have been remodeled several times, and from time to time used as a dwelling house. The historical map of Pennsylvania locates Pomfret Castle on the north side of Mahantango Creek in Snyder County just east of the boundary line between Snyder and Juniata Counties. An old map

shows an Indian path from Shamokin to Mifflintown by way of Pomfret Castle and Mexico. In view of this fact, Pomfret Castle was built along this path in order to arrest the free movement of the Indians along this path and to put a stop to their attacks on the settlers throughout the valley.

Every one must admit that a well-preserved stone structure that satisfies the requirements laid down by the commissioners of Penn in 1755 actually exists to this day, and that the same order called for the erection of two forts west of the Susquehanna River, and that one was to be erected on Mahantango Creek by Colonel James Burd and Captain Patterson. In a letter dated February 9, 1756, Robert Morris informed General Willim Shirley that he caused the erection of four forts along the western frontier. The first was Ft. Littleton for the protection of the inhabitants of that section and for holding the Braddock Road over the Alleghenies to the West. The second was Ft. Shirley at Aughwick, about twenty miles north-west of Ft. Littleton on the "Great Path" of the traders and Indians to Ohio, and was "consequently the easiest way of access for the Indians into the settlements of the Province". The third fort was Ft. Granville, fifteen miles northeast from Ft. Shirley on the Juniata River, which commanded a narrow pass where the river flows through the mountains. The fourth fort is the much disputed Pomfret Castle on Mahantango Creek at Richfield. Let us here quote Governor Morris on this point. "From Ft. Granville towards Susquehanna at a distance of fifteen miles and about twelve miles from the river (Juniata), another fort is erected that commands that country, and is intended to prevent the Indians from penetrating into the settlement from that quarter. This I have called Pomfret Castle, and in each of these forts I have posted a company in the pay of the Province, consisting of seventy-five men, exclusive of officers who are from time to time to detach parties to range and scour the woods, each way from the several forts, by which means the Indians will be prevented from falling upon the inhabitants, and these soldiers by next summer will become expert woodsmen and proper rangers, to attend an army in case it should be thought necessary to march one to the westward."

Governor Morris gave orders, March 29, 1756, to General Shirley to order Captain Patterson to build Fort Pomfret Castle. According to a letter written by Captain Patterson while he was under the command of Major James Burd in 1756, he assisted in the erection of Pomfret Castle and then was given command of the fort. Under date of February 5, 1756, he wrote from Pomfret Castle to Major Burd at Carlisle about sending a detachment of twenty-four men to Carlisle to bring back provisions for the fort. In letters at various times, the Governor of the Province stated that the fort "had been erected" or "that he hoped it would be finished in ten days" or that the fort "had nothing done to it". In the face of such confusing reports, it becomes comparatively easy to see why there are different viewpoints at variance with each other with respect to Pomfret Castle.

Just about this time the trouble with the Indians became worse, and Captain James Patterson was summoned to Ft. Augusta for the purpose of receiving instructions to adjust the difficulties with the Indians in the Juniata Valley. Captain Patterson returned from Ft. Augusta by way of Middle Creek to Pomfret Castle. According to his account, he fell in with some Indians somewhere along Middle Creek. In the struggle that ensued one Indian was killed and the remainder were put to flight. One of Patterson's men was wounded in the encounter. He furthermore reported that the Delawares were roaming over the territory between the Susquehanna and the Juniata Rivers, seeking revenge, plunder, and scalps, and that many cabins were found burned or were still burning.

Why has the Pomfret Castle so long been forgotten and yet so well preserved? In the days of the earliest settlements in the locality, John Graybill came there from Lancaster County, scouted around one summer, and when the Indians returned from the North to their hunting and fishing grounds for the winter, he buried his chains, single trees and axes, and returned to Lancaster County. He evidently was much impressed with the locality and returned the following spring with his family. He took up land near "the old spring house", secured a deed from the owner, Henry Wallis, and later became the owner of the land on which the fort stood, as well as the land of the surrounding country. On

a map by John Wallis, April 3, 1783, London, Pomfret Castle is clearly shown on the head waters of Mahantango Creek. This map was drawn for his brother, Henry Wallis, who became the owner of all the lands in the Richfield section. This map is still in the possession of John Snyder of Richfield. John Graybill died in 1806 and is buried in the cemetery adjoining the fort with his grave marked "the first settler". John Graybill was the ancestor of all the Graybills in the valley. Since he was a Mennonite and opposed to war and lived in peace with the Indians, it is entirely reasonable to infer that he never made any display of the fort, was reluctant to talk about it as such, and referred to it only as "the spring house". In fact for a long time the building served as his dwelling house, and after that it was used merely as a spring house. The successive owners of the property after John Graybill, were likewise plain and modest people. They also hated war, made no reference to the fort and wholly disregarded the significance of the famous old structure. It ought to be added that the building occupies a commanding position, a never-failing spring supplies an abundance of water, and from its look-out posts on the hill just back of it, the Indians had little chance to make a surprise attack on the garrison from any direction.

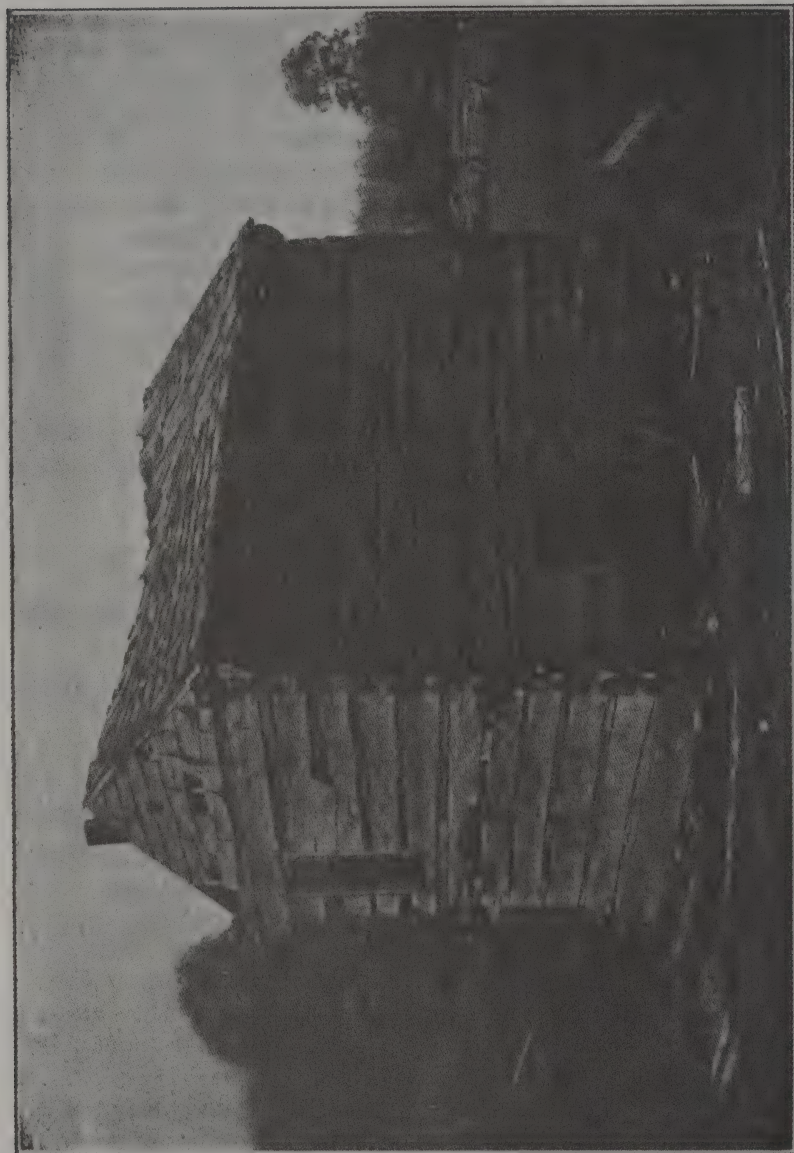
Perhaps all this controversy about Pomfret Castle is beside the point. In the last analysis what does it matter whether Pomfret Castle was this fort or that fort, or even none of the forts that the commissioners of Penn contemplated erecting. The fact still remains that some kind of a fort was erected on the Mahantango for the protection of the settlers against Indian attacks, and that is the all-important point of the issue. This ought to be convincing even to the doubtful. The structure was not erected to serve the purpose of a mere dwelling or just as an ordinary spring house. It was erected as a fortification. Any person who entertains any doubt about this should visit the place to see the portholes constructed in such a way one would be able to shoot either to the right or to the left or just straight ahead. Had these openings been put there merely for ventilation, they would undoubtedly have been built in a different way.

The Schoch Blockhouse at Kreamer

When Mathias Schoch first settled in Middle Creek Valley, he built a log cabin, which, some years afterwards, was used as a fort or place of refuge for the settlers in case of Indian attacks. This building was located over a natural spring and was built of heavy logs, skilfully and solidly pieced together. The first story had a fireplace, the spring, and a floor of heavy logs about eight inches in thickness. This first floor evidently was used by the near-by settlers as a spring house. The second story, about seven feet above the ground, likewise had a floor of eight-inch logs hewed square and fitted together. A trap-door led from the second to the first story. This second story was used as a place of refuge and defense for the settlers in case of Indian uprisings (1770-1785). At the gable ends there were two openings, eight by twelve inches, for the use of rifles in repelling such Indian attacks. Originally, the outside entrance was to the second story only. This outside entrance was made of planks with a ladder-like arrangement so that it could be drawn up after entering. This blockhouse was undoubtedly the first of its kind in Middle Creek Valley.

The building stood until 1918 when it fell completely into ruins and was removed by the owner of the land. It is most unfortunate that, at the time, sufficient interest to keep it in a state of preservation was not in evidence among the citizens. When Dr. A. M. Smith was a member of the General Assembly (1898-1902), he introduced a bill in the legislature for the appropriation of \$1500 for its purchase and to put it in a good state of preservation, but nothing came of it. With the possible exception of Pomfret Castle, the old blockhouse was Snyder County's only relic of colonial times and should have been preserved by all means as others of like kind in the State. Today a marker, built of stone taken from the original chimney, stands as a memorial of this building. It also stands as a memorial to the first settler in this portion of Middle Creek Valley. The marker was placed by the Mathias Schoch Family Association, and then transferred to the Snyder County Historical Society. It was unveiled, October 21, 1922. On the bronze tablet of the marker is found the following inscription:

Site of the blockhouse and settler refuge during the Indian raids (1770-1785). Located at spring 100 yards south on tract granted by the proprietors to Mathias Schoch 1762. Boulder of stone from the original chimney.



The Schoch Block House

About the beginnings of this old fort, there has centered considerable controversy. It is quite generally agreed, however, that it must have been erected about the year 1770. The Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania state: "This fort is supposed to have been built by the Hendrick's, a bold and energetic people living in that locality at that early day." There is no evidence that the land on which the fort was built was ever owned by the Hendrick's. Old deeds in the possession of Clarence Gordon, Kreamer, Pa., bear testimony that the land was owned by Mathias Schoch at the time the fort must have been erected. It is indeed difficult to understand just why the fort should ever have been called Hendricks when it was erected on land evidently owned by Schoch. The fort, however, was known in the traditions of the community for many years as Ft. Hendricks. Just why and how this came about, there seems to be no way of knowing. It is authenticated, however, that people by the name of Hendricks owned and occupied land near-by as has been indicated in a preceding chapter.

The Penn's Creek Massacre

Events Leading Up to the Massacre

This Indian massacre is generally known as the Penn's Creek Massacre because it took place for the most part along Penn's Creek, from the Isle of Que, Selinsgrove, to the present town of New Berlin, and even beyond to the west and north of that place. It appears that the major portion of the massacre took place between the locations now known as Kratzerville and New Berlin.

At the time of the massacre in 1755, Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties had not yet been organized. The territory of the Penn's Creek Massacre was then a part of Cumberland County, which included the country west of the Susquehanna River and north and west of York County. This country had been purchased from the Indians as far north as the Kittatinny or Blue Mountains, or the present southern boundary of Perry County. Despite protests from the Indians to whom the land north of the Kittatinny or the Blue Mountains still belonged, the Scotch-Irish from the Kittatinny Valley crossed these mountains to build settlements in the val-

leys beyond. By the Albany Treaty of 1754 an arrangement was made between the Six Nations and Thomas and Richard Penn for the transfer of certain lands to the Whites lying west and south of a line beginning at the Susquehanna River (about a mile north of Selinsgrove) and extending N. 45° W. across Penn's Creek (neighborhood of New Berlin), the Buffalo Valley turnpike (near Rae's Church), Buffalo Creek, the Nittany and Bald Eagle Mountains, the West Branch near the mouth of the Sinnemahoning Creek, to Lake Erie near Presque Isle (Now Erie, Pa.). Later on the Indians refused to accept the provisions of the treaty on the grounds that they had misunderstood the real extent of the territory. In the meantime, many settlers had moved into Penn's Creek Valley. The first white settler known to have lived in this valley was a trader by the name of George Gabriel, who resided at the mouth of Penn's Creek at the upper end of the Isle of Que about 1745. Fortunately, the early records contain the names of many of these original settlers:

The massacre occurred October 16, 1755, or about 193 years ago. This was at the beginning of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), and about four months after the ignominious defeat of General Braddock along the Monongahela River in Western Pennsylvania in his ill-fated attempt to capture Fort Duquesne and to drive the French and Indians out of Western Pennsylvania. It took place at the time when the French and English were engaged in a titanic struggle for the possession of the North American continent. The French already had possession of Canada and the Mississippi Valley and were now attempting to extend their territorial possessions eastward toward the Allegheny Mountains and even beyond. It appears that the conquest of the Susquehanna Valley was next on their program of expansion. The threatened danger to the English Colonies was very great. The provincial government of Pennsylvania, largely under Quaker influence, was rather indifferent and dilatory in meeting the crisis. The defeat of Braddock was a bitter disappointment to the English, but, for the most part, failed to arouse them to the great danger that threatened them at the time. This was the situation at the time of the massacre.

An Account of the Massacre

In October, 1755, a band of Indians, allies of the French, crossed the Alleghenies through the passes of the head waters of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, now Clearfield, Pennsylvania, then through Penn's Valley, Centre County, and through the gaps of Penn's Creek about the Paddy Mountains. There they fell upon the defenseless and unsuspecting settlers along Penn's Creek, killed, wounded, and carried into captivity about twenty-six men, women and children. In all, fifteen whites were killed and ten were carried off as captives. While these Indians were undoubtedly incited by the French and encouraged by Braddock's defeat, they at the same time coveted this whole valley as a favorite hunting and fishing country, and because of these three reasons were resolved to drive out all the white settlers.

Among those enumerated as victims of the massacre are Jacob Breylinger, and John Jacob LeRoy, known to the people of his day as Jacob King. Breylinger lived about two miles below New Berlin on a tract of land west of another tract later owned by David Oldt. This German was found brutally murdered on his own farm. LeRoy had come from Holland to America three years before and was living near a spring on a tract of land since known as the Hon. Isaac Slenker's place in Limestone Township, Union County. King was killed by the Indians at the spring near his home. The Union County Historical Society has placed a marker near this spring to commemorate the incident.

Among the captives were Anne Mary LeRoy and Jacob LeRoy, children of the murdered man, Barbara Leininger and her sister Rachel, Marian Wheeler, Hannah Breylinger (wife of Jacob Breylinger) and her two children, one of whom died later on from hunger at Kittanning, and Peter Lick and his two sons who lived on Lick Run or Switzer Run, a short distance above New Berlin. According to information furnished by Barbara Leininger and Anne Mary LeRoy, they were taken to the Indian Town of Kittanning where they remained until September, 1756. Then with about 100 other captives from the provinces of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, they were taken to Fort DuQuesne where they stayed two months. Then they were taken to the mouth of Big Beaver Creek about twenty-five miles from the Fort. In the spring of 1757 they were again taken about twenty-

five miles farther up Beaver Creek and from there to Muskingum about 150 miles away. About this time they managed to escape and returned to Fort Pitt on March 31, 1757. The reader naturally is curious to know what became of these captives. Very little is known. In 1764 Anna Mary LeRoy was found living in Lancaster. In 1772 John James Leroy, a son, resided in Prince George County, Maryland. He later sold the LeRoy homestead to Andrew Pontius of Tulpehocken. Nothing further appears to be known of the family.

Events Following the Massacre

News of the massacre threw the colonies into a state of consternation. They now began to realize the real designs of the French and Indians and the great dangers to which they were exposed. Steps were taken to insure the needed protection. A few days after the massacre, John Harris, Harris Ferry, with some forty-five men, came northward to ascertain the true state of affairs. He wanted to know just what had actually happened, and if possible to restore the friendly relations again with the Indians. They found the bodies of the persons massacred and much evidence of the massacre. They then proceeded to Shamokin (Sunbury) to confer with the Indians there and to make peace with them. The Indians, although located only about five miles from the scene, seemed to know nothing of the massacre, but appeared distrustful of the English and seemed disposed to war. The Indians, however, counselled the party to stay on the east side of the river on their return to Harris Ferry. This advice was disregarded on the ground that it might simply be a scheme for ambush. Harris and his men then began the return trip on the west side of the river. While on the way back, they were ambushed by about twenty or thirty savages near the mouth of Penn's Creek at the head of the Isle of Que. The ambush took place on the east bank of the creek, about mid-way between the Isle of Que and the State Bridge across the Creek, in the northern part of what is now Selinsgrove. The exact spot was marked by a wedge driven into a linden sapling growing on the bank near the old "Maine Saw Mill" opposite that portion of the town formerly known as "Sweet Hope". By 1885 this sapling had become a

large tree with a trunk more than eleven feet in circumference, but the top limbs were then gone, and the tree was hollow with age. On the south side of the tree about nine feet from the ground was a V-shaped opening as mute evidence of where the wedge had been driven. The older residents of Selinsgrove bear testimony of this marker of the site. This tree stood until a few years before the Commemoration of the Massacre in October, 1915.

In the ambush fight, seven white men were killed and five were drowned in the flight across the river. So far as can be learned the Indians lost five men. While tording the river at Nigger Island, pursued by the savages, Harris' horse was shot but he managed to swim ashore. A physician who followed him on horseback was killed and his body fell into the river. After many hardships a number of the party succeeded in reaching Harris' Ferry. Because of the danger from the Indians, a regiment of soldiers was organized in 1756 for the defense of the frontier. One portion of the regiment, consisting of over 400 men commanded by Colonel William Clapham, gathered at Ft. Hunter, five miles north of Harris' Ferry. In June, the march northward was begun. On the way they built Fort Halifax on Armstrong Creek (one mile north of the present town of Halifax), crossed the Susquehanna River at Berry's Mountain just below the site of the present town of Millersburg, and proceeded to Penn's Creek on the west side of the river. On the Isle of Que, they found the burnt cabins of George Gabriel. Going farther north to a point opposite the Indian town of Shamokin, they crossed the river to the flat lands above the mouth of the Shamokin Creek, took possession of Shamokin in the night without resistance, and constructed Fort Augusta, a short distance south of the forks of the Susquehanna, July 1756. We are told this was done at the request of the Indians who were fearful that the French would get possession of the place and build a fort there. This fort originally stood several hundred yards back from the river bank but this distance has become considerably lessened through many years of erosion of the river bank. Fort Augusta was the most prominent military post along the frontier of the Susquehanna River valley.

Commemoration of the Massacre

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 14, 15, and 16, 1915, Selinsgrove and vicinity provided a fitting celebration of the 160th Anniversary of the Penn's Creek

Massacre. The celebration was attended by several thousand people from Snyder and the adjoining counties. The three-day celebration was characterized by bands, costumed fraternal orders, fire companies, industrial and fraternal parades, a historical pageant, the unveiling of the massacre marker, and many notable addresses. Among the principal speakers were Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, Dr. John Price Jackson of the State Department of Labor and Industry, and Prof. Frank E. Shambaugh, a native Snyder Countian, and Superintendent of the Public Schools of Dauphin County.

The historical pageant was presented in the meadow on the south side of Penn's Creek along the public highway north of the town. The pageant was staged under the direction of Prof. Nathan N. Keener, Department of Expression, Susquehanna University. The caste was composed of several hundred persons consisting of the local tribe of Red Men, students of the University and persons of the town. The pageant depicted the coming of the Indians originally to this locality as good hunting and fishing grounds, the coming of the white settlers with the inevitable crowding out of the Indians, the nature of Indian and pioneer life in the locality, and finally the horrible massacre. The celebration proved an appropriate way to commemorate this unfortunate event of Colonial days.

At the north end of the borough of Selinsgrove stands a marker commemorating the Penn's Creek Massacre. The marker is of Vermont granite weighing about three tons. On it are two bronze tablets. The upper tablet commemorates the massacre; the lower one, the Harris ambush. The boulder was purchased by the celebration committee and the tablets were donated by the Pennsylvania State Historical Commission.

The Middle Creek and Stump Run Massacre*

Usually when Indian Massacres are recorded in Colonial America, it is immediately understood to mean that white settlers were murdered by the Indians. The Middle Creek and Stump Run Massacres were an exception to the rule. These two massacres were examples of Indians being murdered by white people. The whole

*Colonial Records, Vol. 9

dastardly affair was perpetrated by two squatters, Frederick Stump and his associate, John Ironcutter. The account of these murders constitutes a very interesting but deplorable incident in the annals of local history as we shall presently see. Because of this deed, Frederick Stump and John Ironcutter, have come down through history as Indian killers, notorious fugitives from justice, and social outcasts in the Pennsylvania Province, as well as in the local community. The local historian will search in vain for records that have anything commendatory to state about these two men. Their deeds are universally condemned as foul murders, gross injustice to the Indians, and conduct unbecoming white settlers.

Who were Frederick Stump and John Ironcutter?

Frederick Stump was a German pioneer, born in Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1735. His birthplace was near the site of the present town of Fredericksburg, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. The town is located about one and a half miles south of Little Blue Mountain, was originally known as Stumpstown, and was founded by Stump in 1761. Confusion in territory may be avoided by keeping in mind that Lancaster County was formed out of Chester County in 1729; Dauphin County was formed out of Lancaster County in 1785; and Lebanon County was formed out of portions of Dauphin and Lancaster counties in 1813. This enables us to understand why Lancaster County is historically named as the birthplace of Frederick Stump.

Frederick Stump belonged to a family of sixteen children, eight sons and eight daughters. The Stump family had migrated from Germany to America during the first half of the eighteenth century because of political and religious persecutions. Of his boyhood little or nothing is known. In 1759, at the age of twenty-four, we find that Frederick Stump conducted a store located on the southwest corner of the public square, Schaeffers-town, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. In 1761 he acquired the ownership of a tract of land in Bethel Township, Lebanon County. In 1768 Stump is described as about thirty-three years old, 5 ft. 8 in. tall, stout, active, well-proportioned in body, with a brown complexion and black hair. During the French and Indian Wars, at least 133 white settlers were murdered by the Indians in

Bethel Township, and it is highly probable that his wife and children were among the victims. With the assistance of neighbors and bloodhounds, Stump relentlessly pursued the murderers, and when the bloodhounds compelled the Indians to climb trees for safety, they were shot down and killed by their pursuers without mercy. Meeting financial distresses, and with his family murdered, Frederick Stump evidently became embittered and swore eternal hatred and revenge against what he regarded the cause of all his misfortunes.

Of John Ironcutter even less is known. Tradition states that at the age of eighteen, he ran away from his native home in Germany, and arriving at Rotterdam, he sold himself for passage to Pennsylvania. He was purchased by Frederick Stump, generally known at the time as a wealthy landowner of Lancaster County. John Ironcutter has become generally known as a redemptioner and the bondservant of Frederick Stump, and from that time on, his life and activities were intimately associated with that of Stump. Accompanied by John Ironcutter, Frederick Stump set out resolutely to wreak the bitterest vengeance upon the murderers of his wife and children, and thereby both of them have become notoriously known as the "Indian Killers".

In course of time Frederick Stump sold his property in Bethel Township and disappeared from the community. A little later we find him listed among the taxables of Penn Township which at the time comprised most of what is now known as Snyder County. He had his home near the mouth of Middle Creek in the neighborhood of Bake Oven hill, a short distance south of the present town of Selinsgrove. Stump was a squatter and was living on land to which he had no legal title. All this must have occurred as early as 1766, for in September of that year, John Penn, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province, issued a proclamation, "forbidding all of his majesty's subjects from making any settlements beyond the limits of the last Indian purchase within his Province, and whereas, it has been reported that a certain Frederick Stump, a German, settled beyond the limits of this Indian purchase near Ft. Augusta, who had no authority nor warrant for making settlements". In spite of the proclamation, Stump with other squatters continued to remain.

He evidently felt that North American savages had no territorial rights nor claims that a white man was bound to respect, and the proclamation of the Provincial Government made no difference to him.

Description of the Massacres

A party of friendly Indians consisting of four men, three squaws, and three children, had pitched their cabins on what is known today as Stump's Run, a small stream emptying into Middle Creek, about fourteen miles west of the Susquehanna River. This brook flows through the present limits of the borough of Middleburg, near the Glendale Cemetery. There these Indians lived and hunted in 1768. The four men and two of the squaws set out from this camping ground for a trading post along the Susquehanna River for the purpose of bartering peltries for other supplies. The one squaw, two young Indian girls, and a papoose, remained at the place of the encampment. The others arrived first at the house of William Blythe who treated them kindly. It appears that this man, in 1768, lived near the mouth of Middle Creek. On a Sunday evening, January 10, 1768, the four men and the two squaws, on their way back to their cabins, stopped at the house of Frederick Stump. It is reported that they were drunk, very disorderly, and exceedingly quarrelsome. We are also told that Stump tried to get them to become orderly, and finally requested them to leave, but this they refused to do. Becoming fearful of his own safety, Stump killed all six Indians, cut a hole in the ice on the creek and pushed the bodies under the ice. One of these bodies was later found washed ashore at Harris Ferry. Probably the whole truth of the matter is that it was a drunken brawl that ended in the death of some of the participants.

Becoming fearful that the information be carried to other Indians that had not been any too friendly to the Whites, and that a general uprising might follow, Stump and Ironcutter journeyed the following day up the creek to the site of the present town of Middleburg and completed the job of killing the one remaining squaw, the two girls, and the small child. They then threw their bodies into the two cabins and set them on fire. Anna Stump and her children were now avenged! This whole unfortunate affair took place in Penn Township, Cumberland County, of which Carlisle was the county-seat, according to the territorial division at that time.

Events Leading to the Arrest of Frederick Stump

After committing these murderous acts, Stump went to the house of George Gabriel at the mouth of Penn's Creek, January 12, 1768, and reported to William Blythe the details of the killing and even boasted about it, but asserted that it was done in self-defense. Blythe sent four men to the scene of the murder to make an investigation, and found the cabins burned and some of the charred remains of the four bodies. Blythe then traveled to Carlisle, the county-seat, and reported the incident to the local authorities there and to the Provincial Authorities in Philadelphia. This was done, January 19, 1768. At this time the court for this entire area was held at Carlisle. The inconvenience in traveling this distance can best be appreciated when it is realized that at the time there were no railroads, no wagons with springs, poor roads, if any at all, and few bridges across the streams.

The murder of these Indians produced a great sensation in the colony. The Indians were aroused and were seeking revenge. In fact some of the Indians were already on the war-path, and this inexcusable killing would undoubtedly further incite the Indians to hostilities. So great was the threat that the settlers began to fear a general uprising of the savages. The Provincial Government forwarded a message to the Delawares and the Iroquois condemning the encroachments of the Whites on Indian territory, and condemning the murders in no uncertain terms. The authorities declared that the murders had been committed by outlaws and did not at all express the attitude of the settlers, and that the murderers had to be punished. So great was the feeling that Stump was compelled to flee for safety. In his flight he was pursued by the revengeful Indians, and finally found shelter and protection in the home of three white women living in the vicinity of Ft. Augusta. Fearing the wrath of the Indians, the women at first hesitated to give him shelter, but finally yielded to his pleas. They hid him between two feather beds. When the Indians arrived at the home in hot pursuit of Stump, they were finally persuaded that Stump was not around there at all. Thereupon in utter disgust, they seized a cat and dismembered it as an object lesson as to what would happen to Stump should he ever fall into their possession.

The Arrest of Stump

This state of affairs led to the steps for the arrest of Stump. Governor John Penn offered a reward of 200 pounds for the apprehension and the arrest of Stump and Ironcutter, and also made an ardent appeal to the Indians not to engage in any acts of revenge or reprisal for the murders. A warrant was issued for the arrest of the two men. Captain William Patterson of Lancaster County, with nineteen men from the Juniata Valley, arrested both men at the home of George Gabriel, near Selinsgrove, January 21, 1768, and lodged them with Sheriff John Holmes in the old log jail at Carlisle. Patterson came from Ft. Patterson (now Mexico, Juniata County). The capture of these two men constitutes one of the bravest acts in law enforcement in this section. Patterson and his men escorted the two prisoners safely through the wilderness infested by hostile Indians. When all this had been done, the Indians were informed that the murderers had been captured and imprisoned, and would be duly punished for the crime.

Stump and Ironcutter Rescued from the Carlisle Jail

Prior to the formation of Northumberland County in 1772, the civil and criminal cases were all tried in the courts at Carlisle and Reading. Governor Penn, February 2, 1768, ordered the sheriff of Cumberland County to deliver Stump and Ironcutter to the sheriff of Lancaster County, who in turn was to deliver them to Philadelphia for trial as speedily as possible. Public sentiment, however, was not at all sympathetic toward this transfer of prisoners on the grounds that Stump and Ironcutter would not receive an impartial trial in Philadelphia where sympathies were with the Indians. They furthermore insisted that the trial had to be carried on by a jury in the home county of Cumberland. For this reason the officers of the law hesitated to take the prisoners to Philadelphia. An attempt was made by sympathizers to rescue Stump and Ironcutter from jail but the plan was abandoned when assured that the trial would be held in Carlisle. A few days later, under the leadership of John and James Morrow, a company of seventy or eighty men from Sherman's Valley in Cumberland County (now Perry County), where Stump apparently had lived at one time, entered the jail by pretext for something, and then with drawn weapons, demanded Stump's release. An attempt was made by the

authorities to prevent such a forced release but the attempt failed and Stump and his accomplice were freed. Probably many of these men had formerly experienced maurauding expeditions by the Indians, and even may have had one or more members of their families murdered by them. This may be the explanation for the existing prejudices in favor of Stump. These men evidently failed to see any consistency in putting to death Stump and Ironcutter for killing savages, when these same savages who had killed Whites were left free and unmolested.

Subsequent Career of Stump and Ironcutter

After Stump and Ironcutter had been forcibly rescued from the Carlisle jail by a mob, they returned to their home community along the Middle Creek but turned out persona non grata even among the friends and neighbors. The Provincial Government issued an order for their rearrest and capture with a generous reward of two hundred pounds but Stump and Ironcutter were never arrested again because they had too many sympathizers. Thereupon Stump went to his father's home in Tulpehocken, and Ironcutter disappeared. Little is known of Stump from this time on. Tradition says that he fled to Kentucky (Virginia) where he died an aged man many years later at Woodstock. Ironcutter appears to have lived a haunted existence in the mountains near State College. It is stated that he had a cabin in the forests, where the Bald Eagle Mountain and Shade Mountain join, and finally ended his checkered career at the foot of Lost Mountain.

The Murder of Young Seneca George*

This murder was committed July, 1769, on the west side of the Susquehanna River, a few miles south of Middle Creek, and not far from the site of the infamous Stump-Ironcutter Massacre of friendly Indians in January of the preceding year. The victim was young Seneca George, the only son of the Indian Chief "Old Seneca George" of the Seneca Indian Tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy. Just why this Indian happened to be in this locality at the time must largely remain a matter of conjecture. He may have traveled south to visit Indians at Shamokin (Sunbury) or even farther south to visit at McKees, or he may have been sent by his father to con-

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fer with John Shikellamy (the son of the famous Indian Chief Shikellamy, who had died about twenty years prior) regarding the agreement of the Treaty of Ft. Stanwix (Rome, New York) of November 5, 1768, which stated that the southern boundary of the New Purchase as of the Albany Treaty of 1754 was the Penn's Creek. Some of the white settlers may have been disregarding the territorial claims of the Indians and were making settlements on the forbidden lands. At least it is definitely known that the Provincial Government found it necessary to issue a proclamation, May, 1769, making it prohibitory for any settler to locate on certain territory in violation of the provisions of the treaty, and authorizing the commander at Ft. Augusta to use troops whenever found necessary to expel any "squatters".

The murderer of young Seneca George was Peter Read, a relative of Conrad Weiser, the famous Indian Interpreter. Read was apprehended and promptly arrested for the crime and imprisoned in the jail at Lancaster. Just as soon as the provincial authorities learned of the murder, they became greatly alarmed about the probable effect another murder of Indians might have upon the Indians of the province. In consequence a communication was immediately forwarded to Sir William Johnson, the English commander in New York, who had great influence over the Iroquois Indians. As was to be expected, the murder of the chief's only son produced no little stir among the Senecas. In fact so serious became the entire affair that the father and chief, Old Seneca George, determined to go in person to Ft. Augusta to demand an explanation of the whole unfortunate affair. The chief was accompanied on the journey from the Mohawk Valley to Ft. Augusta by a large body of Indian warriors. Upon their arrival at Ft. Augusta, the chief asked for an audience with the Commander of the fort, and the request was readily and immediately granted. The conference was opened with the usual formalities that accompany such meetings. The commander of the fort then delivered to the chief Governor Penn's proclamation that forbade Whites to settle on certain lands recognized as Indian territory. The Indians then withdrew from the meeting for the purpose of conferring among themselves. This, then, was followed by a second council meeting. Among those present at this second meeting was Frederick Weiser, a son of the Interpreter. He presented presents to the

old chief and talked at length about the long standing friendship that existed between his father and the Six Nations. He assured the chief that he greatly deplored the murder of his only son particularly by a member of the Weiser family, that the Weiser family under the circumstances would not put up any defense in behalf of the relative, but instead, permit the law and justice to have their course in meeting out punishment to the guilty. The old Indian Chief was greatly moved by Weiser's sincerity and assurance. He replied, with tears rolling down his cheeks, that he harbored no ill-will against the Weiser family, and declared himself quite well satisfied with the steps taken to adjust the difficulty.

The reply of the chief is so characteristic of the Indian way of speaking and so tempered with mercy that it deserves to be quoted:

I am glad to see one of the sons of Conrad Weiser, and hear him mention a little of the friendship and love that was between us and our brother, his father. Yes, old Conrad Weiser was indeed my brother and friend. I am glad the tears have flown from the eyes of his children, as they have done from mine on account of this unhappy affair, which certainly has been a great grief to me for he that was lost was a son that lay near my heart. He was all the child I had. Now I am old. The loss of him has almost entirely cut away my heart. But I am pleased, my Brother Weiser, the son of my old friend, has taken this method to dry my tears.

To understand fully this compassionate spirit of Old Seneca George, we have to keep in mind that the Indians generally were not favorably disposed to capital punishment. They were much more impressed by the sincere and sorrowful regrets expressed for the taking of a human life than they were in exacting another life as a matter of retribution and revenge. It ought to be said that the Indians were bent upon revenge only when their rights were ruthlessly trampled upon without any compunctions of conscience and their people killed without any sincere expression of sorrow and regret on the part of the perpetrators and their associates.

Baltzer Klinesmith Killed by the Indians

In the summer of 1780, Baltzer Klinesmith lived on a tract of land across the mountain from where New Berlin is now located. On July 14, of that year, he and his two daughters, Elizabeth (16 yrs.) and Catherine (18 yrs.) started for the harvest field. On the way they were

attacked by a band of Indians. They killed and scalped the father and took the two girls prisoners, and brought them across the mountain to a spring in the neighborhood of the present site of New Berlin. There the Indians encamped for the night. The next morning they started on another expedition leaving their two prisoners in charge of an old Indian. During the day, he cleaned and dried the scalp of the father in the presence of the two daughters. Upon the completion of the gruesome task, the rain began to fall and the girls were directed by the Old Indian to cover a sack of flour with brush to protect it from the rain. The Indian then seated himself against a small tree and soon fell fast asleep. At this opportune moment, Elizabeth seized an ax and sank it into the head of the old savage. In his death struggle he gave a fearful yell which was heard by the returning Indians. The girls sought refuge in flight.

The Indians started in hot pursuit of the fleeing girls. In the flight Catherine was shot below the right shoulder blade as she was leaping over the trunk of a fallen tree, the bullet penetrating completely the body. She concealed herself under the trunk of the tree and escaped capture. In the meantime, her sister, Elizabeth, had succeeded in reaching a harvest field where a number of men were at work. Being prepared for every emergency in those days, the men seized their guns and went in search of the sister and in pursuit of the Indians. The Indians succeeded in making their escape, and Catherine was found by the men. She had succeeded in stopping the flow of blood by the use of her apron. She recovered from her wounds but the scars remained with her to the day of her death. Klinesmith is buried in the cemetery adjoining the Dreisbach Church. A simple marker has been placed at his grave.

George Rowe Killed by the Indians

A pioneer settler of the eastern portion of the Middle Creek Valley was George Rowe. He lived in the neighborhood of what is now Salem. On a certain day he went to a grist mill located at a considerable distance from his home, Fought's Mill in Buffalo Valley, and while standing in the doorway of the mill, he was killed by an arrow shot by a revengeful Indian. This unfortunate affair, like so many others, undoubtedly occurred because of unfair treatment given the Indians by some of the white

settlers. After the Bake Oven Hill and Stump Run Massacres in 1768, there were Indian uprisings in these areas. It is reported that a friendly Indian came to John George Ulrich at his homestead immediately west of Selinsgrove to warn the settlers. The Indian was arrayed in war paint and conveyed his ominous message by sign language. Many settlers of this region took advantage of the warning and fled for safety.

It is reputed that George Rowe was the first white settler killed by the Indians in this section in this recent uprising, and also the first person to be buried in the graveyard adjoining what was formerly known as Rowe's Church, but known today as the Salem Lutheran and Reformed Church. Directly back of the church building stands a monument to his memory containing the inscription:

GEORGE ROWE

b 1723

killed by the Indians 1780

Der Tod Gewiss, ungewiss der Tag, die Stunde auch
nie man wiesen mag frin fuerchte. Erected 1890

The Stock Family Massacre

The Site of the Massacre

The site of the Stock Massacre is in Middlecreek Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, on the north side of Middle Creek between the present towns of Kreamer and Globe Mills. Its exact site is about a mile due east of the Globe Mills Store on the farm formerly owned by John I. Shaffer. In the early historical records of Central Pennsylvania, the statement is made that this massacre occurred in 1781 in Penn Township, Northumberland County, instead of in Middlecreek Township, Snyder County. To understand this apparent anomaly, the reader must bear in mind that Middlecreek Township was not yet in existence at the time of the Stock massacre. This township was formed in 1838 from lands belonging to Washington, Centre, and Penn Townships. We must also bear in mind that Snyder County was not yet in existence at the time of the Stock Massacre. Snyder County was taken from Union County in 1855; Union County was taken from Northumberland County in 1813; and Northumberland County was taken from Cumberland, Lancaster, Bedford, Berks and Northampton Counties in 1772. Speaking geographically, the massacre occurred in Penn Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania.

The farm on which the massacre occurred was originally a part of a larger tract of land which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by its patent dated November 25, 1796, gave to Melchor Stock, Sr., of whose family certain members were so brutally murdered and scalped by the Indians fifteen years before. By the last will and testament of Melchor Stock, Sr., (will on record in Sunbury) his son, Melchor Stock, Jr., became the owner of the farm, and he in turn transferred it to his son, Conrad Stock, October 25, 1817. Conrad Stock kept the farm in his name for nearly a half-century when he sold it to his son, Francis William Stock, April 1, 1865, for \$3,090. Many years later the farm was bought from Francis William Stock by Solomon Hummel. Upon the death of Solomon Hummel, his administrators, Oliver F. Hummel and Charles Hummel, sold it to Oliver Ulrich who in turn sold it to A. B. Markley, and he sold it to John I. Shaffer.

The Stock Family

Very little is known of the Stock Family prior to their coming to Middle Creek Valley. The reader will readily note a discrepancy between the earlier and later spellings of the family name. The change in the spelling appears to have been made about 1830, probably because of the German ancestry of the family. It appears that the original Stock Family came from Switzerland about 1700. Melchor Stock is the oldest member of whom we have any definite information. He was born in Lancaster County in 1725 and moved to Middle Creek Valley about the close of the French and Indian Wars. He was granted a warrant for 120 acres in 1765; in 1772 he was granted a second warrant for fifty acres; and in 1776 he received the third warrant for sixty acres. Stock was considered one of the large land owners of this section. In 1774 he was a road supervisor, and in 1777, a constable in Penn Township. He was a member of the Rowe's (Salem) Lutheran Church. He died in 1798 and is probably buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery adjoining the church. His will was probated May 5, 1798, at Sunbury. The will mentions his second wife, Anna Mary, and five sons: Peter, George, Mathias, Melchor, Jr., and Michael. The executors of his estate were his son Melchor, Jr., and Daniel Rush. Melchor Stock, Sr., was the progenitor of a large and industrious family line of descendants, some of whom are living today.

Events Leading Up to the Massacre

Let us now return to the events leading directly to the massacre as well as to the description of the massacre itself. It is reported on a certain day when Mathias Schoch, the first settler of the Middle Creek Valley, was away on picket duty with Captain John Clark's volunteers during the Revolutionary War, an old Indian Chief came to the Schoch home. His home was located on the site of the present town of Kreamer. The Indian stayed all day by the open fire place but had nothing to say. He left in the evening. When Mathias Schoch returned home, his wife told him of the strange visit of the Indian. Mr. Schoch felt sure that the visit was a presentiment of evil and instructed his wife that should the Indian return, she was to induce him to talk. The Indian did return the following day, and Mrs. Schoch gave him food to eat, and then the Indian began to tell her of the coming Indian uprising against the Whites. He counselled the settlers to leave with their families. He warned Mrs. Schoch not to report him since he would then have to forfeit his own life. The upshot was that Mathias Schoch travelled all through the night from cabin to cabin warning the settlers. The next morning the women and children were sent on horseback to the southern portion of the province, but the men stayed to guard their land. These men were sheltered in the old Log Fort which stood a short distance west of the present town of Kreamer. Only one family decided to stay, and this was the family of Melchor Stock. Stock had heard rumors before and nothing had happened, and he felt nothing would happen again.

The Description of the Massacre

On the day of the massacre the father and three of his sons were engaged in clearing some land along the creek about a mile away from the cabin. Another son was plowing a field adjoining the cabin while the mother was doing the family baking in the bake oven on the sloping hillside just above the cabin. The other members of the family appeared to have been in the cabin. About thirty Indians arrived on the scene. These Indians evidently constituted one of the roving bands of Indians that occasionally invaded the central portions of the state bent upon revenge, plunder, and massacre. It is an acknowledged historical fact that there were no longer any Indians in residence in Pennsylvania east of the Alleghen-

ies at the time of the Stock Massacre in 1781. At first these Indians observed carefully the activities of the father and his sons, but finding them strong men, constantly on the lookout for signs of trouble, and all heavily armed, they decided not to molest them. They evidently lurked in the woods for some time, and then at an opportune time, they swooped down upon the unsuspecting and defenseless family with revengeful and murderous intent. They first shot and scalped the son while he was plowing in the field. They killed one of his horses but took the other one with them. Then they went to the cabin to complete their fiendish task. The mother escaped from the cabin, defending herself with a canoe pole as she retreated towards the field where her husband and sons were working. She was killed by a tomahawk hurled at her while she was trying to escape, and was then scalped. The wife of the older son, Michael, was taken prisoner while her two-year old child was tomahawked. The two young daughters were likewise murdered and scalped. After the murders had been done and the home plundered, the Indians started back on their way to New York State with the young woman and the horse. Young Mrs. Stock, terrified and bewildered by her gruesome experiences, her strength evidently failing her, fainted away and could go no farther. Two Indians dragged her across a near-by plowed field into the woods and there killed and scalped her. Some reports are to the effect that the whole merciless affair happened not more than a hundred yards from her home. For some reason or other, the horse also was killed before going farther. Dogs attracted to the spot by the smell of the decomposing body led to its discovery.

The question may well be asked just why the Stock Family was singled out for the massacre. The answer probably is four-fold. First, the spirit of revenge was abroad because of hatreds of the Revolutionary War and of the French and Indian Wars in which members of the Stock Family had participated. Secondly, the Stocks, for some reason or other, had probably incurred the ill-will of the Indians. Thirdly, the Stock Family had failed to give heed to the warning as the other families had done. Fourthly, the Indians had been incited by the British to do it through rewards for scalps.

The Massacre Avenged

When the men returned from the field, they found their home plundered, the son dead in the field, the

mother lying dead on her back with the canoe pole by her side, the two daughters and the child dead and scalped, and the younger Mrs. Stock murdered in the near-by woods. What a spectacle to behold! The murder victims were buried on a ridge of land a short distance above the cabin. For many years the graves were marked by native stones, but later a change in the ownership of the farm resulted in the removal of these stones, and today the victims lie buried in unmarked graves.

The alarm was immediately given and the men of the Old Log Fort started in hot pursuit of the Indians. It is interesting to note that while Mathias Schoch was the first man who sounded the alarm of the impending Indian attack, he was also the first man to carry the information of the bloody tragedy to the settlers of the valley. It is just such episodes that portray the virility, the moral integrity, and the social and civic worth of the pioneer settler. While on the way, the men of the Old Log Fort sought the assistance of three experienced Indian fighters living on the present site of Shamokin Dam whose names were Grove, Pence, and Stroh. In a few days they overtook the Indians somewhere on the head waters of the North Branch of the Susquehanna while they were seated around the evening campfire. Here the Indians had fancied themselves safe on account of the distance traveled. They had no guard out as a means of protection. Their rifles had been piled around a tree and all but three or four of the Indians were asleep. One Indian was describing to the others how they made the attack, how Mrs. Stock defended herself, and how completely they had carried out their plans. After the Indians had fallen asleep, the pursuing Whites surrounded them and killed many of them, and only a few managed to escape. A white boy fifteen years old whom the Indians had carried off as a prisoner was rescued. They then scalped their victims as evidence that the murders had been avenged, selected the best of the rifles left by the Indians and destroyed the remainder, and with the scalps as trophies, they traveled to the Susquehanna River, constructed a raft and started homeward, but in the neighborhood of the present town of Nanticoke, the raft was wrecked, and they returned home by land in safety.

The Lee Family Massacre

It seems appropriate to incorporate here the account of the Lee Family Massacre which occurred August 13,

1782, at the place where the village of Winfield is now located. At the time of the massacre, this area was a part of Northumberland County, and at the present time, the site of the massacre is not far from the boundary line between Union and Snyder Counties. The early versions of the tragedy vary considerably as to the details but are quite well in agreement as to the main facts. This area appears to have been settled by the whites shortly after the close of the French and Indians Wars. So far as we know, the first settler of the region was Major John Lee. At the opening of the American Revolution, he served as an officer of the militia of Northumberland County. Shortly thereafter, he was made captain of a company. He must have been a well-known and influential citizen since he served as overseer of the poor and as assessor of the community. He was hated by the Indians because they believed that he had cheated them, and consequently they sought revenge.

Twenty rods east of the Eyer barn stood the dwelling house of Major John Lee. It appears that on the evening of the massacre, Major Lee and his family, together with several neighbors who were visiting at the Lee home, while seated at the supper table were attacked by a band of sixty to seventy Indians, having arrived on a trail on the top of the Shamokin Mountain (New Berlin Mountain), bent upon revenge and massacre. Major Lee, an elderly man by the name of John Walker, and some visiting neighbors were tomahawked and scalped. In all, seven people suffered death and four were taken captive but later were returned. A young woman in the family by the name of Katy Stoner managed to escape by hastening upstairs upon the appearance of the Indians, and concealing herself behind the chimney. To her we owe the details of the massacre. Mrs. Lee, an infant daughter called Elizabeth, two older daughters named Sarah and Rebecca, and an older son named Thomas, were taken captives. With their captives, the Indians escaped northward along the West Branch across the White Deer Mountains, and then crossed the river just below where the present town of Muncy is now located, and from there continued their escape northward.

Before continuing the account of the Indian journey any further, it becomes necessary to return to the scene of the massacre. It appears that one of Lee's sons, Robert, was away from home at the time of the massacre. Upon

his return home, as he approached the log cabin, he observed a band of Indians hurriedly leaving the place. The Indians evidently did not observe him or else he too would have fallen a victim of the tomahawk. When the son saw what had befallen the family, he hurried to Northumberland to spread the alarm. A company of about twenty men was organized at Ft. Augusta under the leadership of Colonel Samuel Hunter for the purpose of inflicting punishment upon the ruthless savages. The men first came to the scene of the massacre to ascertain the state of affairs. They found that Lee and a young girl were not yet dead. These victims were transported by improvised litters to Ft. Augusta where Lee died shortly after his arrival, but the young girl recovered from her wounds.

Colonel Hunter and his men set out in hot pursuit of the fleeing savages. They came in sight of them above Lycoming Creek. In crossing the White Deer Mountains, Mrs. Lee was bitten by a rattlesnake which greatly handicapped her in the journey. The Indians, discovering that they were being pursued, urged her along with all possible haste. Finding she could go no farther because of the effects of the poison and physical exhaustion, she sat down on the ground. An Indian seized a gun and killed her. The infant was seized by its legs and dashed against a tree. This unhappy affair occurred near the mouth of Pine Creek, about four miles below the present site of Jersey Shore. When the pursuing party reached this spot, they found Mrs. Lee's body still warm and the infant moaning in pain but not mortally injured. The pursuit was continued unabated but in the neighborhood of Antes' Gap, the Indians separated into smaller groups and fled into the mountains, and further pursuit was then deemed impracticable. In addition, Colonel Hunter and his party were well-nigh exhausted by this time. Mrs. Lee's body was buried at the spot and the child was brought back.

What became of the other captives? The older boy, Thomas, remained a prisoner of the Indians until 1788 when he was delivered up at Tioga Point (now Athens). During these six years, we are told, he had become so fascinated by Indian life that he was very reluctant to leave the tribe. He had to be forced to return and even attempted to thwart all efforts by attempts to escape. He later became reconciled to the ways of civilized life and became

a useful citizen. He and his older brother, Robert, lived on the old Lee homestead until the beginning of the nineteenth century. The two sisters, Sarah and Rebecca, were rescued in the years 1785 and 1786 respectively. The restoration of the three children was made possible by the active interest of the older brother, Robert, and of a nephew who made three successive visits to the Indian country before a complete release could be obtained.

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CHAPTER 10

An Account of the Population since the Formation of the County

You may deceive all the people part of the time, and part of the people all the time, but not all the people all the time.

Lincoln

The Population of the County

The prevailing population of Snyder County has always been Pennsylvania German. It is estimated that at the beginning of the Revolutionary War there were about 110,000 Germans in Pennsylvania. The population of the county has always been rather homogeneous in the fact that practically all of the people have been native-born Pennsylvania Germans. It is only within the past few decades that people of other races and nationalities may be found in the county to any extent at all. Snyder County people have been remarkably free from the influences of the foreign element that constitutes the masses in the great mining and manufacturing areas of the State. The population of the county has also been prevailingly native-born white. Very few foreign-born white people have been reported in the census years.

Usually only from two to three negroes may be found in the entire population. Snyder County never had a negro population, and it does not have any today. Whatever colored people have been found in the county at various times have been for the most part domestics in homes, serving as cooks, or as hairdressers for the women of the community. About the middle of the nineteenth century, Selinsgrove had a colored barber by the name of Moses Goodman (D. 1881). He lived in what was then Sweet Hope, or that portion of Selinsgrove north of Mill Street. His wife, Harriet, was well known as an excellent cook and was employed frequently to prepare the food on formal occasions in the community. She was best known in the community as "Black Harriet" and was popularly believed to possess curative powers. Her kiss was supposed to prevent whooping cough or to free a baby from the whooping cough. In her latter years, it is said her face was a mass of wrinkles, her mouth toothless, and her hair gray and woolly-like. She always wore a shawl

and a sun-bonnet irrespective of the season of the year, and smoked a pipe.

Another colored man in Selinsgrove was the sexton of Trinity Lutheran Church. He lived in the sexton's house located back of the church where the Sunday School room is now located. He was locally known as "Uncle John" but his full name was John E. Chambers (1820-1876). Physically he was a giant, six feet, three and one-half inches tall, and weighed about 240 pounds. He was a skilled boxer. He was also a barber and his shop was located on the second floor of a saddler shop located on the lot now occupied by the First National Bank. It is said that the barber shop was frequently the scene of sparring matches. Though colored, he and his family were highly respected. On Sunday, he appeared in public wearing a high silk hat and a frock coat. He and his wife and daughter were members of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Chambers died in 1876 after serving many years as the sexton of that Church. His son-in-law took over the barber shop upon the death of Chambers. Other colored people of the county have been temporary employees, household servants, or itinerants. With few exceptions, there were no special preferences in those days for the white people. Any preferences at all were on account of personal worth and by no means on account of color of skin.

The Growth of the County Population

Districts		Census Years from 1860 to 1940								
	Townships	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
1	Adams (1874)			831	636	707	667	621	572	627
2	Beaver (1787)	1,805	1,766	1,407	858	832	809	309	312	298
3	Centre (1805)	994	885	1,060	1,060	1,030	899	826	810	891
4	Chapman (1820)	1,764	1,007	1,126	1,219	1,087	914	839	812	797
5	Franklin (1853)	1,351	932	1,247	1,144	1,286	1,328	1,035	1,161	1,121
6	Jackson (1854)		712	728	730	719	677	629	621	707
7	Middlecreek (1838)	600	574	727	750	734	768	665	755	746
8	Monroe (1856)	1,092	1,126	1,177	1,279	1,215	1,315	1,566	1,235	1,382
9	Penn (1758)	1,227	1,415	1,373	1,261	1,263	1,119	1,117	1,209	1,497
10	Perry (1816)	1,055	1,016	1,212	1,287	1,150	1,024	999	947	1,013
11	Spring (1885)				1,208	1,123	1,049	1,087	1,062	1,138
12	Union (1869)		1,091	1,251	1,233	1,169	1,095	1,019	1,073	1,071
13	Washington (1818)	1,370	1,541	1,725	1,500	1,412	1,238	1,090	690	803
14	West Beaver (1843)	1,172	1,131	1,355	999	1,038	1,190	1,228	1,356	1,508
15	West Perry (1858)	635	585	749	752	700	704	653	667	718
Boroughs										
1	Beavertown (1914)							525	604	664
2	Freeburg (1920)								391	467
3	Middleburg (1864)		370	398	420	513	531	984	1,024	1,124
4	Selinsgrove (1853)	1,261	1,453	1,431	1,315	1,326	1,473	1,937	2,797	2,877
5	Shamokin Dam (1927)								738	764
Total		14,326	15,604	17,797	17,651	17,304	16,800	17,129	18,836	20,208

Snyder County Becomes a Seventh Class County

By an act of the State Legislature, July 10, 1910, the sixty-seven counties of the state were divided into eight classes according to their respective populations, as indicated by the United States Census. Such a classification of the counties was deemed necessary for the enactment of legislation peculiarly adapted to certain parts of the state because of size and diversity of the population, as well as the physical conditions prevailing in the different counties.

The re-classification of the county placed Snyder County in the Seventh Class. The other seventh class counties of the state are Adams, Bedford, Clarion, Clinton, Elk, Greene, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Monroe, Perry, Susquehanna, Tioga, Warren and Wayne. Union County would be a seventh class county providing the inmates of the North-east Federal penitentiary could be legally included in the county population. The remaining eighth class counties of the state are Cameron, Forest, Fulton, Juniata, Montour, Pike, Potter, Sullivan, Union, and Wyoming.

The census of 1930 gave the county a population of 18,836 but the census of 1940 gave 20,208 as the population. This increase of 1,372 in the population resulted both from the normal growth and from counting the patients of the Selinsgrove State Epileptic Colony as Snyder County people. This increase transferred Snyder County from an eighth class to a seventh class county. It should be stated that the colony patients are wards of the state and not of the county, that they do not pay any taxes in Penn Township, nor do they vote, and yet by counting them as belonging to Snyder County, they made necessary the transfer of the county from an eighth to a seventh class county. This change in class raised the salary of the county commissioners, the salary of the sheriff, and the salary of the district attorney. The salaries of the county treasurer, register and recorder, and prothonotary, cannot be included since these officials continue to be paid on a fee basis instead of a fixed salary. The area of Snyder County is 329 square miles. There are only four counties in the state that have a smaller area. These counties are Montour (130), Philadelphia (135), Delaware (185), and Union (318).

The Dialect Spoken by the People

The Teutonic immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania

about 250 years ago spoke a rather peculiar dialect common to the peasants of the lands from which they had migrated. The dialect is still the prevailing mode of communication for the older portion of the population of many counties in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. It is spoken by 500,000 people and understood by as many more. Contrary to the general impression, it is not a corrupted form of the German language, although it contains many corrupted words and idioms, made-words, and expressions such as "mei Meind uff gemacht" and "net gschwind bsunne". The dialect is not a German lingo, an illiterate speech form, or even a gibberish way of speaking, as some ill-informed critics have attempted to characterize it. Neither can it be recognized as a combination of English and German words since it never was that and is not that at all today. Pennsylvania German is rather a blending of a number of different dialects brought from various provinces of Germany and Switzerland to Pennsylvania by the early settlers of the Province. As the dialect is known today, it is rather distinct by itself and possesses a habitation, a grammar, and a name.

Neither would it be correct to say that the dialect is a combination of bad German and worse English as some would suggest. It sometimes partakes of a modified form of both the English and the German. In other words, it is neither the one nor the other but a different form of both languages. For example, the Pennsylvania German says: "Es belangt zu mir" (it belongs to me) instead of the German "Es gehort mir", "Ich duh sell net gleicha" (I do not like that) instead of the German "Es gefallt mir nicht". Common forms of expression are: "You are so schtruwvlich" (Your hair is disheveled), "You are so schusslich" (You move about by fits and starts), "Do not rutsch around so much" (Don't slide about so much). In order to understand and appreciate the combination of the English and the German in the dialect, a person must realize that the early Pennsylvania German settlers were simultaneously exposed to three languages. They read the German Bible, a German prayer-book and Psalter, in the church and the home; they learned English in the school; and they conversed in their dialect in their everyday life. Is it any wonder that they had trouble with their pronunciation, sentence structure, idioms, and grammar when attempting to use the English language?

The pronunciation of the words has always been rath-

er inaccurate These variations and additions have increased with each generation until much of the semblance of the original dialect seems to be lost. It ought to be stated that in the German-speaking sections of Europe even to this day different dialects are used such as the North German, South German, Alsatian, and the Swiss. What is known as the Pennsylvania German is peculiar to South Germany. It comes almost exclusively from the Palatinate or the sections around Mannheim, Speyer, Neustadt, and Kaiserslautern. It was reported repeatedly that the Pennsylvania German soldiers in the Army of Occupation, following the signing of the armistice of World War I, experienced little or no difficulty in conversing with the German people of the Rhineland.

The vocabulary is rather limited. The dialect hardly contains more than 18,000 words* including from 15% to 20% English words or compounds of English and German words such as "Gauls-blanket" (horse blanket). Some words have been taken over directly from the English such as "office" and "operate", while others have a German prefix and an English root such as "abschtarte" (start off) or "auspicke" (to pick out) or "absigne" (to sign off). To say the least, the dialect rather poorly adapts itself to descriptions of modern political, economic, and social conditions, as well as to modern ways of communication and transportation. In America there are found many things for which there were no names in the dialect of the early settlers. This required the incorporation of names from other languages so that in course of time many such words found their way into the dialect. The influence of English upon the dialect has left an impression in the addition of new words to express new ideas and new things.

It is easy to understand the confusion and the perplexity in the minds of English-speaking people in their first contacts with the dialect. A few examples will make this clear. The word for hurry is "dapper" but the word "dappich" means awkward. A "Grumbier" means a potato although the translation is "groundpear". The dialect is also strangely peculiar and often confusing because names are frequently used in a different sense, and thereby do not admit of a dialect literal translation. One of our county newspapers relates two experiences of this

*Lambert—A Dictionary of the Non-English Words of the Pennsylvania German Dialect

type. A patron of the paper reported to the newspaper that he had a "Windmühl" (wind mill) for sale and desired it advertised. The paper advertised a fanning-mill when in reality the object was a wind pump equipment. The second illustration concerns a farmer who reported that he had a "Fuchsgaul" for sale, but in his copy used the literal translation "fox horse" although he actually meant a sorrel horse.

What adds to the confusion of the English-speaking people in their contacts with the dialect is the varied method of spelling the words. The dialect appears to have no definitely standardized system of spelling as indicated by the different orthography employed by the different dialect writers. Those who employ an English system, spell words one way; and those who follow the German system, spell the same words differently. The situation frequently makes difficult reading even for one fully familiar with the dialect. There are also notable variations in pronunciation and in the words.

For example, in some counties the people call a bucket an "Eemer" while in others the name "Kiwvel" is given; in some a shovel is designated a "Schaufel", but in others it is known as a "Schip". Also, certain areas use more English words in the dialect than others. In the main, however, the dialect is strikingly similar in all counties and states. These similarities can be explained by the fact that the early settlers came largely from the same European countries, and by the fact that these people and their descendants read German newspapers and German books such as the Bible, Catechism, Psalter, Almanac, and Prayer Books. On Sunday, they listened to sermons in the German language which they understood for the most part, while during the week days, they conversed in their own dialect. The language the children learned in school was either German or English, or both, but on the playground and in the home, they made use of their dialect. Thus, speaking two different languages and a dialect, they developed a peculiar type of pronunciation and an odd way of expressing their thoughts. With so many handicaps, the literature of the Pennsylvania Germans did not make any marked appearance before the middle of the nineteenth century.

The pronunciation of many of the words of the dialect is difficult for a native English-speaking person. On the other hand, the native Pennsylvania German in his pro-

nunciation of certain English words usually ends in "confusion worse confounded". That the people of Snyder County were German people is evidenced not only by the names of the early settlers but also by the influence of the German dialects. Sentence structure and the interchange of consonants constitute definite proof of the presence of the dialects. The words with the **j**, **the th**, or **the w** sounds, provide unusual difficulty. Common illustrations of such difficulties are "choke" for joke, "somesing" for something, "vell" for well, and "picks" for pigs.

The story is told of a rustic Pennsylvania German who visited for a few days a large city for the first time. Upon his return home, his friends asked him whether he learned anything while away. His reply was characteristic: "Before I vent away, I couldn't say "norse" (north), and I couldn't say "souse" (south) but now I can say bose (both)." A husband and wife found themselves in disagreement on a name for their new-born baby girl. They finally compromised on the grounds that since neither one could say correctly "Elisabes" (Elizabeth) or "Bersa" (Bertha), they would have to name it "Ruse" (Ruth).

Variations in the pronunciation of the German and the Pennsylvania German are readily observable such as "Fleesch" for "Fleisch", "net" for "nicht", "Bee" for "Bein", and "Kaerrich" for "Kirche". The influence of the German may be seen also in the arrangement of words and the literal translation from the German; for example, "Der Mann os uff em Blatz wohnt" (The man that lives on the place). Many expressions in English by the Pennsylvania Germans are literal translations of the German, such as "It makes down", "It is all", "It wondered me", "Make the door shut", "I looked the house up", "She was wonderful good to me", "She was wonderful sick", "Come here once".

What other dialect or language could muster such a complete list or descriptive adjectives of the human personality as the Pennsylvania German? Gentle reader, how would you relish to listen to such a blast of invectives as dickseckicher (pot-bellied), dappicher (awkward), grossfiessicher (large-footed), grumbeenicher (bow-legged), dikkeppicher (stupid), lappicher (careless), batzicher (saucy), eibildicher (conceited), wunnerfitzicher (inquisitive), schnuppericher (meddling), grossmeilicher (bragging), hochmiedicher (haughty), nixnutsicher (worth-

less), ungebutzter (uncleanly), schlappicher (untidy), schtinkicher (awfully lazy), dreckicher (filthy), unbekimmerter (indifferent), unehrlicher (dishonest), gretzicher (cranky), scheiheilicher (hypocritical), wieschtgashdicher (very nasty), wunnernascher (inquisitive), and grageelicher (quarrelsome), alter Dunner (old cuss)? Without doubt, the worst of us would certainly wince in response to such a diatribe pouring forth from the lips of one of our fellowmen. The Pennsylvania German word often proves highly insulting while its English translation may be regarded as commonplace. To call a man in the English language bow-legged would not even be offensive to him but to call him in the Pennsylvania German dialect "grumbeenich" might be taken as a malicious attack on his personality. If the Pennsylvania German cannot give full discredit to a person whom he thoroughly dislikes by his generous but discriminating use of choice descriptive adjectives, then nobody else can. The vocabulary appears to lend itself in a special way to this purpose.

Nor is the dialect peculiarly adaptable to the use of the abusive, the profane, and the obscene speech alone; it is equally accommodating to the use of the beautiful, the attractive, and the graceful, through the use of adjectives such as gutguckicher (good-looking), barmhaerzicher (merciful), gutmeenicher (kind-hearted), wahrhafticher (truthful), ehrlicher (honest), helflicher (helpful), and hartschafficher (hard-working), alter Dropp (old fellow). Expressions that are descriptive of the characteristics of a person are no less poignant and pungent than single words. The characteristic way of designating the stupidity of a person is by making generous use of revolting and shocking analogies. For example, "Er is so dumm as en Sau; wann er glae wennich dummer waer, dann waer er so dumm as zwee Sei". (He is as stupid as a pig; if he were a little more stupid, he would be as stupid as two pigs).

The dialect fairly sparkles with proverbs concerning the ethics of human conduct and of human relationships, and of the inevitable consequences that follow the transgressions of these principles of morality. Its epigrams are so simply expressed and so chock-full of homely wisdom that the ignorant and the learned alike are able immediately to get the point. Any attempt to explain tends to confuse rather than further clarify their

meanings. A few examples of the more common proverbs or Pennsylvania German "Schprichwarte" are given to show their nature and significance.

"Wann en Schof blafft, dann verliert es oftmols en Maulvoll."
(A sheep that bleats loses many a mouthful)

"Der Mann wu zu bissel denkt, der blaudert zu viel."
(The person who thinks too little usually talks too much)

"Wann en Mann sich reibt amme schwarze Kessel, dann waerd er warhaftich schwartz."
(If a person rubs himself against a black kettle, he will become black)

"Wann en Mann uffgewickelt iss in sich selwer, macht er en mechdicher gleener Bindel."
(If a person gets all wrapped up in himself, he makes a mighty small bundle)

"Gut gewetzt iss halwer gemaecht."
(Well whetted is half mowed)

"Kaerze Haar sin glei gebaerscht."
(Short hair is quickly brushed)

"Ich habb em letzte Baam nuff gegauzt."
(I barked up the wrong tree)

"Eejelob schtinkt."
(Self-praise is offensive)

"Mir guckt en gschenkter Gaul net ins Maul."
(We don't look a gift horse in the mouth)

The dialect is extensively spoken today in a rather compact area of Pennsylvania. This area is composed principally of the counties of Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Schuylkill, Lebanon, Lancaster, York, Adams, Dauphin, Snyder, and the southern part of Northumberland County. Pennsylvania Germans may also be found in border states, portions of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, some of the New England States, and in a number of the southern and mid-western states. While the dialect is more generally spoken in the rural areas, there are many towns and even some cities, where one may hear it on the streets. In the courts of some of the counties, testimony is still given in the dialect which has to be translated, not because the judge and the jury may not understand but as a matter of court record.

A few years ago it appeared that the dialect would soon disappear. Today it looks as though that will not happen, at least not in the near future. The dialect has a grammar of its own, dictionaries of non-English words are published, and a considerable literature has been developed within the past seventy-five years. The Pennsylvania German people have made such a large con-

tribution to American life in the nature of tradition, printing, cookery, military history, literature, and industry, that it would be deplorable if they soon would become a forgotten people.

Negro Slavery In Snyder County

Many of the settlers during Colonial Times were slaveholders but relatively few trafficked in slavery as a commercial enterprise. It was a common practice for the people of the southern states to hold slaves. Some of the people of the northern states joined in the practice. It is variously estimated that Pennsylvania by 1750 had between 6,000 and 10,000 negro slaves. These slaves were used as domestic and farm hands but some were used in industry. While most of the people of the Northern Colonies were not enthusiastic supporters of slavery, nevertheless many of them were not violently opposed to it either. William Penn was a slaveholder but had definite religious scruples about slavery, and tried to free his slaves as soon as possible. John Harris, the founder of Harrisburg, owned slaves. In fact one of his slaves saved him from being murdered by some drunken Indians. As a reward for this service, he set the slave free. As a side line to his printing and publishing business, Benjamin Franklin bought and sold slaves. Slave markets existed in Philadelphia, Greensburg, and Pittsburgh. In 1817 a negro girl was auctioned off at Greensburg. Because of its location next to the Mason and Dixon Line, Franklin County was probably the last county in the state to have negro slavery. At the Young farm, two miles southwest of Chambersburg, it is probable that the last slave auction in Pennsylvania was held in 1829. Two slaves were sold at this auction.

In course of time anti-slavery sentiment grew, and movements got under way to discourage and even to prohibit slave trade and the traffic in slaves. The Quakers, Mennonites, and Moravians, particularly were desirous to have all slaves set free. Finally, in 1780 a law was enacted to the effect that all children of negroes born after that year were to be considered free upon reaching their majority. Slavery was prohibited in the Northwest Territory in 1787. Strange to realize, every Southern Congressman voted in favor of this prohibition. On January 1, 1808, Congress put a stop to the importation of negro slaves in the United States. For nearly a half century,

the North and the South appeared hopelessly divided about the extension of slavery into new territory. Selinsgrove seemed to have been a regular hot-bed of Copperheads and Abolitionists. Franklin Weirick, the fiery editor of the SELINSGROVE TIMES, was openly sympathetic to the southern cause in his newspaper editorials and personal contacts. For such overt acts of what was considered disloyalty to the Union, he almost was hanged from a horse chestnut tree at the corner where the Federal Post Office is now located. The slavery question proved an irritating moral, economic, and political issue until the war between the states destroyed negro slavery forever in the United States.

Slavery in Pennsylvania, and particularly in Snyder County, has seemingly been all but ignored by the historian, despite the fact that negro slaves were held as house servants as well as field hands in Penn Township. As early as 1768, Frederick Stump was taxed with one negro. Linn* states that among the taxables of Penn Township in 1785 were:

Selin and Snyder, store, negro slave, and forty acres of land.

The negro slave, owned by Selin and Snyder, must have been used as a laborer in the mill and store, and hardly as a house servant since he was evidently owned jointly by Selin and Snyder. Linn* gives another illustration of slavery in what is now Union County for the year 1786:

In the valley, Eli Hofman, Samuel Hunter, and John Linn, are each taxed with female slaves. From the bill of sale, it appears John Linn purchased his slave, called "Judy", of John McBeth, of Chester County, on the 10th of April, 1786. After residing fifty-eight years in the valley, she removed with John Linn's (second) family to Knox County, Ohio, and died near Mt. Vernon in that County, November 4, 1855, upward of one hundred years old.

Linn* gives a third illustration of slavery in 1796 in the same section:

James Jenkins sold his slave, Tom, to Colonel John Patton, of Centre County. Tom was thirty years old when the emancipation act of 1780 was passed, but was registered defectively, and lived in the belief that he was still a slave. After living many years with Colonel Patton, he came back to Buffalo Valley, and became a charge. The overseers removed him to Ferguson, in Centre, and that township had to keep him.

In a memorandum of county assessments for the year 1775, Linn* states:

*Annals of Buffalo Valley

Whole number of acres cultivated in the Valley, four thousand three hundred and eighty-three; total horses, three hundred and forty; cows, four hundred and fourteen; sheep, one hundred and forty-one; taxable inhabitants, two hundred and sixty; six grist and saw-mills, and five slaves.

On the farm of the estate of the late Emanuel E. Pawling, situated in the Middle Creek Valley about three miles west of Selinsgrove, is what has frequently been called the "slave pen". The pen, constructed of stone walls, is located under the bank barn and it is said that at one time it had a heavy door studded with brass nails. The original Pawling plantation included the present Pawling farm, the adjoining farm owned by Mrs. Charles G. Hendricks, and the "Schoch Acres" at Salem. The History of the Pawling Family states that at one time many slaves were used as field hands on that plantation.

When the Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1850 providing that all runaway slaves found in the North should be arrested, and without trial by jury, returned to their masters, the slave problem was not solved, but was further aggravated. As soon as the slave-owners of the South attempted to secure their runaway slaves, there were riots and rescues. Many people of the North, out of pity for the negro, banded themselves together to help them privately to escape to Canada. This method of aiding the negro to escape received the name of the "Underground Railroad", and many negroes owed their liberty to the quickness and the secrecy of this strange system of travel. Some of the chief routes of this system of transportation extended through Ohio and up the Susquehanna River Valley in Pennsylvania. For the successful operation of the system, "stations" were established along the route.

It is sometimes stated that Selinsgrove was one of these stations along the way. This can scarcely be considered correct. The belief evidently rests on a rather amusing incident connected with the life of Rev. Henry Ziegler, Professor of Theology in Missionary Institute, Selinsgrove, Pa. The story is that certain negro refugees were in quest of food and shelter and their needs were graciously met by the generous-hearted Dr. Ziegler and his wife. The incident is so unusual for Snyder County and shows so well the kindly spirit of the Ziegler family that it deserves to be told more in detail. It appears that several hundred negro refugees from the Southland arrived in Selinsgrove and inquired for a place to eat and

sleep for the night. Someone, perhaps jokingly, directed them to Dr. Ziegler's home knowing full well that he would provide food and lodging for them. The Ziegler home was then located on the site of the home of the present President of Susquehanna University. The Ziegler's were equal to the demands so suddenly imposed upon them. These colored folks were privileged to sleep on the lawn of the home, under the trees and in the barn, and were provided with both the evening and morning meals before they started on the journey further to the north. The serving of these meals to so many people was made possible by the generous assistance of the women from the neighborhood. Dr. John A. M. Ziegler, a son of Dr. Henry Ziegler, in relating this incident,* states that "when they departed, there was more bread-stuff in our house than when they came". This appears to have been the only incident of its kind that occurred in Selinsgrove and can hardly be accepted as evidence that the town served as an underground railroad station. Furthermore, since the feeding and caring of these negro refugees was so overtly performed, the incident deserves to be interpreted as an act of brotherly love instead of a covert device to aid these negroes in their escape from their masters.

The Characteristics of the Pennsylvania Germans

To characterize the Pennsylvania German people with reasonable accuracy constitutes a very difficult task. It is difficult for "an outsider" because he is too far removed from them. He cannot know them as they really are, for a Pennsylvania German is likely to open his heart only to a Pennsylvania German. The task is equally difficult for "one of them" because he is living too close to them. Neither characterization can contain the whole truth. Psychologically speaking, we see people from where we are, and people are to us as we think they are. This practically makes correct characterization almost a hopeless task. There is no illusion, whatever, about Burns' hope for a gift "to see ourselves as others see us". The characteristics of the Pennsylvania German people as set forth either by an "outsider" or "by one of them" must therefore be accepted as only relatively accurate. Persons have a certain intelligence quotient, not as an absolute, but according to a certain instrument of

*Ziegler—Father and Son

measurement. When a book is highly praised or sharply criticized, we need to know who did the reviewing. The characteristics of the Pennsylvania German people as set forth in this chapter must be accepted as the viewpoint of "one of them".

It is certain that the Pennsylvania Germans have suffered much from unjust criticisms. They have been a much misunderstood people. Their worst critics show little appreciation of those sterling qualities that make them a great people. The professional historian has never given them much consideration. He has given much recognition to the colonists of the South and of New England, but has strangely neglected the German element in Pennsylvania. This is probably the result of the numerical superiority of the population of the other colonists. They were also more demonstrative and aggressive than were the Pennsylvania Germans and the English Quakers. The record of the Pennsylvania Germans in their treatment of the Indians is much better than that of many of the other settlers. While others deceived them, disregarded treaty rights, and shamefully treated them, the Pennsylvania Germans treated the Indians as though they were rational creatures.

The Pennsylvania German people have also been thought queer folks and their loyalty to the government has been questioned in times of war. Some persons have even declared them stupid, superstitious, inclined to be clannish, provincial in their outlook and backward to new modes of life. In fact some people have had the effrontery to declare that they are so "dumb they can't even speak English". As one of them, it must be admitted that there is some truth in many of these accusations. The thing for these accusers to keep in mind, however, is the fact that some of these characterizations are not especially peculiar to the Pennsylvania German people alone. There are some English-speaking people that are queer; some French people who can't speak English, and still they are not called "dumb". In fact there are some students and even faculty members on college campuses that are extremely superstitious. If Pennsylvania German people believe in "hexen", so did the Puritans of Massachusetts, but so far as is known, the Pennsylvania Germans never burned a single witch at the stake. They were more tolerant in their attitudes. Is it worse for a Pennsylvania German to consult the

"pow-wow" woman than it is for some of our English-speaking friends to consult quack doctors, phrenologists, palmists, astrologers, and crystal gazers? There is not much sense in people throwing stones when they "live in glass houses".

We are now ready to take up the distinctive traits of the Pennsylvania German people as we know them. Since this account is to be an historical document, reference is made especially to the Pennsylvania German people of a generation or two ago, and not particularly to the Pennsylvania Germans of today. I feel certain that the Pennsylvania Germans of today no longer represent the real Pennsylvania Germans. Fifteen characteristics will be named and briefly described in the hope that they may give an approximately correct picture of these people.

Hard-working and Thrifty (Hart-schaffich and Spahrsome)

The Pennsylvania Germans are primarily an agricultural people. They are industrious and thrifty. The happy ambition of parents is to leave behind a goodly inheritance for their children. A farm for each child is a consumation "devoutly to be wished". All the members of the family work from early morning till late at night. By dint of hard work, the gravel hill and red shale farms of the county afforded a good, comfortable living with considerable savings besides. None ever thought of taking a vacation. Vacations are for the lazy and the idle rich of the town, and country folks do not belong to that class. In addition to doing general house-work, the women worked in the hay and harvest fields. My mother frequently declared she was so tired, and that she had to take a rest, but instead, she was found seated on the kitchen rocking chair, mending, sewing, or knitting. A change of work was the only rest she got. No wonder these people became prematurely old and scarcely ever knew anything else in life but hard work.

The Pennsylvania Germans are hardworking and thrifty to a fault. By sheer industry they made the soil produce, and then carefully harvested everything it did produce. They did not believe in waste. They were so saving that they turned the products of the soil into cash money as speedily as possible. Throwing away a piece of bread was unthinkable, and such a thing as pouring milk into the drain was considered sinful. The Pennsylvania German people lived not only frugally but

lived well. Everything possible was used. Left-overs were warmed up for the next meal or made into some other kind of food and served again. The meals were plain and simple but plentiful. Bread and milk was a delicacy for a growing boy. Often the breakfast consisted of nothing but mush and molasses, and perhaps pie, but there was plenty of it, and no lack of a healthy appetite. When the potatoes were scarce and high in price, the potato peelings were planted as seed. In spite of the fact that the seeding was done sparingly, the harvest was nevertheless reasonably bountiful. They saved what money they could, and scarcely ever spent any for luxuries. As a boy, the gift of an orange was a great luxury, and a penny was much wealth. Probably this is the reason why most of them possessed considerable wealth. Those who were financially poor were charged with lack of management or mis-management of their business affairs, and had little status in the community. It was the hope of the parent that each of the children might enjoy greater financial prosperity than he did.

The pioneer Pennsylvania Germans revealed this characteristic of thrift and industry in the choice of their settlements. They showed keen insight and knowledge in selecting lands that were heavily timbered, knowing full well that those were the areas that also had the most fertile soils. While clearing such lands for farming meant hard work in felling the trees and in digging out the stumps, they were industrious and thrifty enough to do it in sharp contrast to other settlers who chose less heavily timbered areas but also less fertile. In consequence they usually surpassed neighboring settlements by the quantity and quality of their crops and in the material prosperity they were privileged to enjoy.

They Provided Well for Their People
(Sie hen gut far ihre Leit gsarrickt)

The Pennsylvania Germans had a great passion to make ample provision, upon their decease, for the care and well-being of their dependents. An examination of many recorded wills and testaments of residents of the territory now constituting Snyder County from 1800 to 1870 bears ample evidence in support of this characteristic. These wills and testaments throw much light upon the concern of our forefathers about many things now only too frequently considered commonplace and even trivial.

Husbands felt a moral obligation to provide adequate ways and means for the care and keeping of their widows and orphans. It is this spirit that must have prompted the accurate provisions in their last wills and testaments.

Honest. (Du Kannscht dich verlosse uff was Sie Saage)

The genuine Pennsylvania German is scrupulously honest. His word is as good as his bond. In fact it was much to be preferred to lend money to a typical Pennsylvania German a generation or two ago without any legal security whatever than to lend money to some people today with the best security. In fact in those "good old days", for the most part, these legal documents were frequently dispensed with. Several cases have become known where the promissory note was retained by the debtor so that he might know just when the principal and interest were to be paid, and when the obligation to pay could not be met on the designated day, a straight-forward explanation of the reason would always be forthcoming. A debt was considered a sacred obligation and as such had to be sacredly kept. The man who was not honest was quite generally pock-marked as dishonest and the rank and file of the people who knew him refused to have any business dealings with him. Public opinion was decidedly on the side of the honest man, and the dishonest soon found it convenient to move elsewhere.

Loyal and Patriotic Americans
(Sie sin gedreie Amerikaner)

Despite opinions to the contrary, the Pennsylvania German people have always been active in promoting the cause of liberty and independence. There weren't any special ties that bound them to England, for England was not their homeland, and when the war for independence began in 1775, many of the areas settled by the Pennsylvania Germans furnished more than their proportionate quota of the soldiers. They also furnished large quantities of food supplies, horses, rifles, and Conestoga wagons for the Continental Army, taking Continental money in exchange while other settlers sold their products for gold to the British in Philadelphia during the terrible year of 1777-1778. Their contributions to the Continental Army by their flour mills and iron furnaces proved invaluable. The Pennsylvania Germans furnished also some of the best physicians and surgeons for the army. Nor need such patriotic service and sacrifice on the part

of the Pennsylvania Germans be restricted to the Revolutionary War. The Pennsylvania Germans have served their country well in every war in which America has ever participated. The number of extreme pacifists and conscientious objectors has always been very low. Even in World War II, many of the top-notch combat officers of the American army were Pennsylvania Germans or at least of Pennsylvania German descent. In literature the Pennsylvania Germans have not been as progressive as one might wish because they have been isolated from the rest of the population by their dialect, by their ways of living, and by their rural-mindedness. Their seclusive spirit and their ancestral background have militated mightily against a literary life. Many of the best governors that Pennsylvania ever had were Pennsylvania Germans. To say the least, the Pennsylvania Germans have played their part in preserving the American way of life, and have played it well.

God-fearing and Religiously-Minded.
(Sie hen Reschpekt far Gott un Kaerrich)

The old-line Pennsylvania German people were very religious in many of their professions and practices. Perhaps some of these professions and practices may be regarded as crude, superstitious, and even sacrilegious, but the underlying motive was genuine. The Pennsylvania German may be thought peculiar but nobody even dares question his sincerity. To appreciate fully the moral and religious worth of the Pennsylvania German, one must fully know the Pennsylvania German. In my grandfather's day, family worship was quite common. The entire family gathered in the parlor before breakfast, and there grandfather read by lamplight from the large Family Bible, and then all knelt while God's mercy and blessing were invoked. Of course all was done in the German language. On Sundays the entire family attended church. During the services, the men sat on one side and the women on the other side of the church auditorium. Promiscuous seating was considered not only a breach of etiquette but an indication of the absence of all spirituality. On funeral occasions all the men kept their hats on during the services as an expression of deep mourning.

Slow to make up their Minds (Sie sin net
g'schwind Bsunne)

It takes the Pennsylvania German a long time to reach

a decision. The Pennsylvania Germans are far from being quick, impulsive, and prompt to act. They are much disposed to think things over before they act. The person who has had business transactions with them that called for a major decision knows this very well. As illustrations may be mentioned selling a life insurance policy, the purchase of a farm, or the buying of an automobile. It is next to an impossibility to stampede them into an important business enterprise. When pressure is resorted to, they immediately tend to become suspicious; and when the agent is a total stranger, they refuse to have any dealings at all with him. They want their own way and their own time in doing their own business.

Opposed to Higher Education. (Geeich die Hoch Larning)

As a class, the Pennsylvania German people have been opposed to the extension of education beyond the elementary branches for the masses. In fact, a knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic was recognized as quite sufficient for the rank and file of the population. Beyond the common schools, they believed education tended to make rogues out of the people. Young people need to learn to work with their hands instead of with their heads. That was the best guarantee for honesty and civic worth. This opposition to higher education may to some extent be responsible for being called the "Dumb Dutch". Perhaps it should be said here that the opposition to education was not so much to education in itself, especially when practical, as the fear that the dialect would be displaced by English, and that the State would separate religion completely from education. They didn't want the children to receive a God-less education. In short, they resented being told what their children should learn in schools as much as what they were to believe. Their bitter experiences in governmental domination amply conditioned them to be extremely suspicious of all movements that seemed to interfere with their farming, education, and religion. They were very willing to pay their proportionate share of taxes for the support of the government, but beyond that they were unwilling to go. Any governmental scheme to subsidize enterprises meant a corresponding surrender of their personal and property rights. They were unwilling to become economically and politically dependent at the sacrifice of their independence.

While it is true that the Pennsylvania Germans ac-

knowledgeed the need for a select few to be educated for the learned professions, it was deemed best for the masses to remain ignorant and unlearned. When the Free School Act of 1834 was enacted, it met with much opposition from the Pennsylvania German element. The petitions praying the State Legislature in 1835 to repeal the law contained thousands of signatures in German script, in fact signatures in identical script, and signatures where the petitioners simply indicated "their mark" as a measure of personal identity. These latter show very evidently that much of the opposition to free schools came from people who couldn't even write their own names. An examination of the wills and testaments of Snyder County people during the nineteenth century shows that at least one-third of the testators were unable to write as indicated by the "x" in connection with their name at the end of the will. The frequent lack of punctuation, the misspelling of common words, and the failure to capitalize when necessary, show a lack of knowledge of English Composition. The frequent use of the small "i" for the personal pronoun "I" may show a lack of knowledge of capitalization as well as provide some evidence of modesty on the part of those who wrote the wills. The miscellaneous arrangement of the names of different articles in a will shows that their minds did not work in any special logical sequence.

While the Pennsylvania Germans showed little interest in education beyond the mere rudiments, several of the wills and testaments examined set aside money for educating the children. In a will for the year 1815, the father wanted his sons to learn a trade of their own choosing.

Keen Sense of Humor. (Sie gleiche ihre Geschpichte)

To appreciate fully the humor of the Pennsylvania German people, one must be thoroughly conversant with the Pennsylvania German dialect. The quaint nature of the humor rests probably as much in the peculiarities of the dialect as in the people themselves. To translate a good Pennsylvania German story into English usually means almost the total loss of its point and flavor. The writer frequently attempted to tell such a story to his English-speaking friends and found himself embarrassed that he was the only person laughing at his own story. This undoubtedly is not the lack of any sense of humor on their part but rather the absence of appreciation of

the rich flavor afforded by the dialect itself. To say that the Pennsylvania German people laugh because the thing is funny is not answering the question at all. The question still remains as to what makes the thing funny. I am sure any one of the proposed theories of laughter does not explain the quaint humor of the Pennsylvania German. The reason for their keen sense of humor must be found elsewhere, and probably the dialect furnishes the best explanation.

They are Curious to Know. (Sie sin arrig fer ebbes wisse)

This trait of the Pennsylvania German applies particularly to the desire to know just what their friends and neighbors know and do. They are interested in community gossip. In short, they are "wunnernassich, wunnerfitzich, und schnupperich". Familiarity with neighborhood gossip is very important to them since it gives them social status in the community. Not to know the latest rumors about neighbors meant to be stupid, sluggish, and inexcusably indifferent. Who among them did not want to know that Mrs. Jones was going to have a baby, that the Smith girl had a new beau, that the Brown family bought a new piano, and that there was a wedding at the parsonage?

A Tendency to Boast a Little.
(Sie duhna gaern bissel Brolle)

There is considerable evidence that the typical Pennsylvania German delights to boast. This boasting is done with respect to his crops, farm animals, and the status and accomplishments of his children. He seldom has much to say about himself. He says or tells things which are intended to give other people a high opinion of what he possesses. No harm is intended for anybody. It is merely the expression of personal pride in matters of personal interest. Looking at it from another viewpoint, the Pennsylvania German is indeed modest, reticent and retiring, and does not mingle much with the outside world. He has no fond desire to place himself on parade. He has a keen sense of feelings of inferiority. This is probably why he boasts a little. He knows his place and then keeps it. This probably accounts for the fact that he seldom is in the limelight. As the proprietor of a restaurant, he advertises his business by the slogan: "Some say our food is good". His more ostentatious competitor says: "We serve the best coffee in the world." Living in

the kind of a world we do, a fair criticism of these people is that they could well afford to be a little less modest than they actually are.

Frown Upon the Use of Spoken English.

(Es Englisch hen sie immer g'hasst)

The life of the Pennsylvania German centers in his dialect. Just as soon as the dialect is no longer spoken, there will no longer be any Pennsylvania Germans. The dialect is still very strongly entrenched in the hearts and lives of the people despite the influence of the public schools. English is learned in school but the dialect is still frequently spoken on the playground and in the home. This is no longer so prevalent as it was a generation or two ago. The forces of amalgamation and assimilation are inevitably and irresistibly at work in changing these people.

The Pennsylvania German is in love with his dialect. He is unwilling to part with it. Why should he be willing to give it up when it has served him so well? He persists in its use and opposes every effort to have it taken away from him. To him the dialect is the symbolic expression of the simple life, plain living, and genuine sincerity. When he meets a stranger that can speak it, an enrapport sets in at once that his English-speaking competitor cannot appreciate at all. Inwardly, the Pennsylvania German despises spoken English because it represents to him the symbol of vain glory and pride.

A Dislike for Town Folks

(Sie hen die Schtedtel Leit g'hasst)

The Pennsylvania Germans are much disposed to be provincial in their ways of living. To those who lived in the rural communities the social contacts of the village and town for them were far and few between. The Pennsylvania Germans have always drawn a sharp line of demarcation between the folks living in the town and the country. The town folks were thought different from those living in the country. Town folks were known as English-speaking people, given to much style in manners and dress, who considered themselves superior to their country cousins. They were known as the idle-rich and much disposed to "laugh at" the hard-working, poorly-dressed and quaint-looking country folks. The fewer the contacts the country folks had with the town people, the

happier they were. This is the way the rural-minded Pennsylvania Germans thought of the town people. They much preferred to do business with people of their own kind and social level. In short, they despised the town people, not so much for what they were as for what they thought them to be. This state of mind was largely the outcome of a lack of acquaintance of the two groups with one another. The use of the automobile, making possible more frequent and more intimate contacts, has largely eliminated this differentiating characteristic of years ago.

Fond of Good Cooking. (Sie gleicha gut Esse)

Probably the average Pennsylvania German is inclined to be gluttonous. He enjoys his meals immensely and his wife is amply trained to prepare them. Every organization in the county knows full well that the best way to get a good attendance is to have something for its members to eat. In fact, Pennsylvania German people have acquired a notorious reputation for their good cooking. They are extravagant people when it comes to meals. While they are disposed to be penurious in money matters, when it comes to meals they never pinch. In matters of food, they sell only what they don't eat. A person ought to board with a Pennsylvania German family or read through one of their cook books to get a fair understanding of what their meals are like. The writer's salivary glands become profusely active even at the thought of these old German dishes of his boyhood days. Some of his friends may "walk a mile for a Camel" but he is willing to walk ten for a browned-flour potato soup, a "riwwel" soup, apple-dumplings, sauer-graut and pigs knuckles, zitterli, pannhas, fresh pork sausage, schmier kaes, pot-pie, cornmeal mush and syrup, scalded dandelion and boiled potatoes (pissebett un gekochte grumbiere), fruit pies, custard pie, mince-pie such as mother used to make, Dutch crumb pie ("riwwel" kuche), schnitz-pie, pot-pie, schnitz un gnepp, apple-butter, waffles, and pancakes.

Conservative to a Fault

(Sie glawe der alt Weg iss noch der bescht)

Such a characteristic is taken for granted by the Pennsylvania Germans themselves, but to an outsider, it becomes immediately noticeable. Snyder County people are indisposed to invest in stocks and bonds under any condition, and especially so, when the salesman is a strang-

er and is unable to speak their dialect. In matters of agriculture, school, church, and politics, they tend to be followers instead of leaders, pioneers, and trail blazers. They are usually "the last by whom the new is tried, as well as the last to cast the old aside".

Struggled to Make Home Life Self-Sufficient
(*Sie welle schaffe far alles was sie brauche zu lewe*)

The Pennsylvania German family years ago was practically self-sufficient. The family was a factory in itself for the production of the stable goods. It produced most of what it consumed. Comparatively very few things were brought in from the outside. Most of the food was produced on the farm. The industries of the home included the churning of butter; drying, pickling, and the canning of fruits and vegetables; butchering, including the making of sausage, lard and smoked-meats; the making of soap and tallow-candles; the gathering of all kinds of teas and herbs as home remedies for the year; the making of maple syrup, and sugar-cane molasses; the baking of bread, cakes and pies; spinning, knitting, sewing, and the making of home-spun clothes; the laundering of the family wash; the repairing of farm tools and instruments; and the building of houses, barns, and out-buildings on the farm. Then there were the shoe-cobbler, the carpet-weaver, the wagon-maker, the buggy and carriage-manufacturer, the saddler, the blacksmith, the tin-smith, the lock-smith, and the gun smith, the weaver, and the miller, in almost every community.

Going to the store for merchandise that could not readily be manufactured in the home did not occur oftener than once a week, and sometimes not even that often. The store purchases were restricted to household needs that could not readily be produced in the home such as sugar, coffee, molasses, salt, coal-oil, matches, dry-goods such as calico and muslin, shoes, some ready-made clothing, thread and needles, tin-ware, water-buckets, kettles, dishes, knives and forks, oil-cloth, cinnamon, pepper and glass jars. No farmer thought of purchasing butter, bread, pastries, cakes, fruits, garden vegetables, apples, meats, flour, corn-meal, potatoes, vinegar, jellies, preserves, applebutter, milk, breakfast foods, sauergraut, canteloupes, water-melons, soap, vinegar, gloves, mittens, stockings, eggs, or lard. All these things were produced in the home, and there was no need of purchasing them elsewhere.

These are at least some of the traits or qualities that characterized the Pennsylvania German people of a generation or two ago. Many other traits could be named but they would apply to people in general, and no longer to the Pennsylvania Germans in particular. May the reader be reminded again that the characteristics named above apply only to the old-line Pennsylvania Germans, and not especially to those of the present day. Our present crop of Pennsylvania Germans has deviated too far from the life and character of their grandparents to be characterized the same way. One thing, however, remains to be said in behalf of the Pennsylvania Germans of this generation. Like their forefathers, they have continued to resist the forces of assimilation from their English-speaking neighbors so that even to this day they have remained a peculiar people. Had it not been for the fact that these Pennsylvania Germans have been inclined to live by themselves, cling tenaciously to their own peculiar culture, refuse stubbornly to adopt the use of English, and remain consistently a rural-minded folk, they easily could have been assimilated by the general population years ago. It is nothing short of the miraculuos that the Pennsylvania Germans have managed to maintain their identity as a people for so long a time and against so great odds.

Odd Characters in the Floating Population Years Ago

The period following the Civil War up to about 1900 was an era of peddlers, itinerants, and beggars in Snyder County. Some of them were professional tramps, and year in and year out, made regular calls upon certain people of the community, begging for their meals, clothing, and shelter; others were tinkers such as menders of tin and kettle-ware, and clock and umbrella repairers; while still others with boxes or with huge bundles on their backs were venders of dry-goods, stationery, and even patent medicines. The interests and fears of childhood and youth were greatly stirred when one of these strange vagrants loitered along the public road or visited the homes of the neighborhood. This account, however, limits itself to the more picturesque, quaint, and odd characters that were found fifty and more years ago among the floating population of Snyder County. The rural people of the county were willing to tolerate them because it meant more social contacts, provided a source of information of

what was happening in the neighboring counties, and proved satisfying to the sense of Christian responsibility for these unfortunates. Today these tramps would no longer be permitted to roam about, probably most of them would be kept in institutions, and the rural folk would be ill-disposed to accommodate them with food, clothing and shelter. The conditions of the times when they were so prevalent made inevitable their survival. These tramps wandered about from place to place apparently without any economic advantage but the satisfaction of their nomadic spirit. If the inner workings of their minds would have been known, perhaps most of them had experienced at one time or another frustrations, and wandered more or less aimlessly about in an attempt to run away from their problems. But instead of getting away from their conflicts, they found their conflicts constantly with them and hence they kept going all the time.

Abe Lacey

One odd character was familiarly known all over central Pennsylvania, about seventy years ago, as "Old Abe Lacey". It is difficult to conceive that any other character like him ever existed anywhere. Persons who came into contact with him can possibly not forget him. His strange personality and his unique behavior abide with them forever. When the writer learned to know him, he was a very old man, but his passion for tramping had not forsaken him. He was so crippled that he walked only with the assistance of two canes, but even this handicap did not seem to diminish his passion for tramping. Perhaps his rate of walking was only about one mile per hour. In memory he can still be seen trudging slowly and painfully along the country road with the aid of his heavy canes. On account of his great age, he appeared about as helpless as a child, and yet in the language of the vernacular, as "stubborn as a mule", never doing anything he was told to do, and as independent as the proverbial "hog on ice".

No one was ever able to learn his age or parentage. There was a tradition that his real name was Abraham Lissey, but, for the sake of brevity or because of his indolent habits, he was nicknamed "Abe Lacey". Another tradition stated that his real name was Lawrence, that he came from a wealthy family residing in Northampton County, and that the cause of his nomadic life was an early disappointment in love. Psychologically, it is alto-

gether possible that such a human derelict can result from a frustrated love affair. For some reason or other, he had been against the world and the world against him. Sometimes he would speak of his past life, but what he said varied so much that there was reason to doubt most anything he had to say about himself. At the time the writer knew him best, he was living at Richfield, Pennsylvania, with a family by the name of Winey, who had taken pity on the decrepit old vagrant and had provided him with a home. Abe was quite a character as he tramped over Centre, Union, Snyder, Mifflin, and Juniata Counties. There are many people living today who can very vividly recollect his visits.

Abe Lacey can be described as big, fat, burly and independent. In his younger days he tramped barefooted and always carried a heavy stick. It is said that he was as obstinate as an army mule. The least little offense would make him sour and sullen. He was the summum bonum example of negativistic or contrary suggestion. His pockets were always stuffed full of old newspapers and magazines. Probably he preferred these old editions for contrary's sake because somebody had urged him to use current issues. He delighted in terrorizing women and children, and in intimidating them into preparing a good meal for him. An ordinary hand-out, he would not accept. This was his conduct when the men were not about the premises. Work he would not, neither for love nor for money, nor for a meal. A gun brought into his presence with a threat to shoot him would start Abe down the road at a rapid pace. He probably never felt the force of the law, but frequently experienced the stinging lashes of the farmer's cart-whip. An old "black snake wagon-whip" created a mortal fear in him. Such stern measures were sometimes employed by indignant farmers whose premises he had invaded and whose families he had insulted, or whose property he had destroyed when he had not been privileged to have his own way. He possessed a very good memory for all past insults and punishments, and was very shrewd and cunning in all of his ways. He usually slept in schoolhouses and often left them in the morning in a bad condition. Abe Lacey can pose as the original Snyder County tramp, the king or the prince of the family of tramps.

In his latter days he became an inmate of the Juniata County poorhouse. Later he was removed to

the insane asylum at Harrisburg by the authorities of the county, probably not so much because he was insane but because nobody wanted to care for him anymore. He died in the asylum in 1895 and his body was sent to a Philadelphia Anatomical Institution where he probably rendered his first service to mankind. Abe Lacey's life is a practical demonstration that "the world owes every man a living". His notoriety was acquired by the principle of being positively good for nothing known to man and beast. Mark Antony in his funeral oration of Julius Caesar said: "The evil that men do lives after them, the good is often interred with their bones." If this statement is really true, it is reasonably certain that Abe Lacey's bones today are not at all crowded for lack of room.

Billy Grimes or Bill Bailey

Another one of these begging vagrants of several generations ago was a fellow by the name of Billy Grimes, sometimes known as Bill Bailey. He was no better liked and no less feared than was Abe Lacey. His father was a negro, but his mother was a white woman. Billy Grimes was a rather small man, not corpulent, and possessed a wooden peg for a leg. Because of his bad temperament and otherwise uncouth appearance, this physical handicap awakened little or no pity in his behalf. People generally never welcomed his coming into a community. He would become highly incensed upon the slightest provocation. One of his antics was to take a stick and knock down many plums, apples, pears, or peaches, and then select the very best for himself and leave the remainder. When admonished not to "act like a hog" he usually replied that "every person in this world wants his share". He traveled about with axe and saw, and sometimes cut the fire-wood for the family that provided him with lodging and a meal, but more frequently begged for his daily wants. From where he came and of his ultimate disappearance, nothing appears to be known.

Stephen and Lawrence Bailor

Probably the best known of these odd personalities were two elderly men who tramped the road together for many years. They were father and son, and their names were Lawrence and Stephen Bailor. They were

more generally known as "Die Alte Bailor" or "Die Steffone". The writer's childhood memories include many experiences with these two men. They made their appearances in the community with amazing regularity, and with unwanted frequencies. They put in their appearances very suddenly in the spring of the year, and when the cold weather came in the fall they would disappear just as suddenly again. They were harmless, possessed simple tastes, had few wants, and provided no special problem for anybody, and in their way were considerate in their social relationships. They never spoke unkindly to anybody, and when harshly spoken to were never known to reply in like kind. The younger one seemed quite well educated and was very conversant with the Bible. He frequently expounded the Bible stories and teachings with great effectiveness to the assembled family in the evening. His vivid recital of the life story of Samson, how he slew the lion, how he turned the mill-stone, and how he brought about the destruction of a large temple by pulling the pillars from their foundations with his mighty strength, are still vivid boyhood recollections of the visits of these men. The main objection to their presence in the home rested in their unkempt appearance and in their being very frequently under the influence of alcoholic beverages.

Both father and son were natives of Germany, and were never known to speak any other language than German. On the voyage to America, the wife and mother died, and was buried at sea. They landed at Philadelphia where they established a winter home for themselves and for the remainder of the year they were itinerants, but for what reason nobody seemed to know. As such they tramped all over Central Pennsylvania in the role of tinkers and menders of old umbrellas. They were never known to beg for food and clothing. When they arrived at a home about mealtime or in the evening, they mended all the pots, kettles, pans and umbrellas in payment for their meals and night lodging. At any other time, they always charged a nominal sum for such work.

When they traveled on the road, they always followed each other at a distance varying from ten to fifteen feet. The father was blind and necessarily could not lead the way. While trudging along, they were incessantly talking and mumbling to each other, so that they

could usually be heard at a considerable distance upon approaching a home. The younger one carried a small wooden chest in which he had his mending tools and materials; the older one carried a bundle of old umbrellas for repair purposes. The son died first, but the father, despite his blindness, continued his visits. He became lost quite frequently on the way and had to be helped to get to homes where he wanted to go. More than once did we hear his doleful cries for help to find his way and mother required us to render the needed assistance. Finally, worn out with age and with the burdens and sorrows of life, forlorn and forsaken, he sought reliefs from it all, by hanging himself from an old fence on White Top, Washington Township. He is buried in the old neglected cemetery about one mile north of Freeburg.

Pete Washington

George "Pete" Washington, as he was popularly known, was the last survivor of the group of odd personalities living within the confines of Snyder County. He died at the Mary M. Packer Hospital, Sunbury, October 20, 1937, aged eighty-five years, from a complication of diseases. He was Snyder County's only negro at the time, and was a familiar figure in the county for about forty years. It is very evident that he lived under an assumed name. His real name probably never will be known. Of his family history practically nothing of a reliable nature has thus far come to light. It was reported at one time that he had a sister residing in Lewistown. In his earlier years, Pete Washington was a more or less aimless itinerant wandering over Snyder, Juniata, Mifflin, Center, and neighboring counties, but in his latter years, he appeared to spend most of his time in Snyder County, and particularly in and around Middleburg. His usual custom was to disappear from the community rather suddenly and then weeks or months afterwards just as suddenly re-appear again. As early as July, 1905, the following information appeared in the Middleburg Post about Pete Washington:

Pete Washington from nowhere was in town on Tuesday. Pete is good for any kind of a job and knows the people in every locality in about three counties. If he has a bottle of whiskey and a dirty job, he is happy. No one envies his job. Pete says he has been working in harvest and earning money by real perspiration.

It seems rather difficult to evaluate properly such a

strange personality. He was fond of money and often resorted to rather shrewd ways to obtain it. At one time, when supposedly hungry, he was offered the choice between taking his meal in that home or accepting a half-dollar instead, and then obtaining the meal elsewhere. He decided to take the money on the grounds that "probably the family would not have much anyway". Instead of asking directly for money, he would frequently state that he hadn't anything to eat that day and that he thought he ought to eat but didn't have any money to buy a meal. He was not much inclined to work and would do so only at times when charity failed to come his way. The work he would do consisted largely of cleaning gutters, shoveling snow, and doing some odd jobs around a home. For the most part the work was very poorly done. Whatever little money he possessed he had wrapped in old rags to a well-sized bundle and stuck away in some pocket. He was very fond of little luxuries such as ice-cream and a pipe of tobacco. He possessed considerable musical ability and sang negro spirituals to the tune of a rhythmical percussion of a stick of wood upon a box.

He was accustomed to wear just about as many clothes as he could possibly get on and about the same kind of clothing the year round. It was a common sight to see him wearing an overcoat during haying and harvesting. A common practice was to wear two or three hats at a time, one perched above the other. His clothing were held together by a string or belt around his waist. His pockets were ever bulging with a curious assortment of all kinds of old rags. When people would present him with better clothing, he would deliberately rip them to pieces so as to make his appearance as poverty-stricken as possible. He seemed to have possessed a positive dislike for good clothing. He usually slept in barns and in abandoned buildings, and when in Middleburg, he made use of the boiler room of the tannery for his night lodging. His bed was the concrete floor covered with a few newspapers or a quilt that had long since seen better days. He evidently wanted to live that way and that is the way he did live. He was never known to steal and never molested anybody. He seemed to have been obsessed with a fear that whenever things would be missing in a home, people would blame him for having taken them. Pete Washington seemed to have been a good negro, in

fact so good that he was probably good for nothing. In his later years his mind seemed to be foggy, and it became necessary to doubt many of his statements.

Age and pneumonia may be regarded at least as the contributory causes of his death. Nearly two weeks prior to his death, he suffered an attack of pneumonia. At first he was cared for in the corridor of the courthouse, later he was moved to the jail, and finally to the hospital where he died. Regular funeral services were held from the Erdley Funeral Home in Middleburg, and the interment was made in the Glendale Cemetery. It is generally conceded that the citizens of Middleburg accorded George "Pete" Washington a funeral worthy of any one of the borough's citizens. His grave is located in the south-eastern portion of the Glendale Cemetery and is marked by a simple marker.

Henry Mertz (Der Richard)

One of the well-known local characters of the county during the Civil War days and the period immediately following, was a half-wit by the name of Henry Mertz, popularly known as "Der Richard". He was very fond of liquor, bad women, and dancing, and apparently was a good-for-nothing fellow in the community. Nearly always he wore a red bandanna handkerchief around his neck. He served as a private in Company C, 172nd Regiment, P. V. I. as a substitute for a drafted man by the name of Elias Steininger. As a soldier he must have been ill-disciplined and wayward, just as he was in civilian life. He would desert his company for a few days to visit his favorite haunts in the county, and then voluntarily return to his post again. It is said that he was never arrested. This was probably due to the fact that everybody knew him for what he actually was and did not pay much attention to him.

Prior to the formation of Snyder County out of Union County, special sessions of the court were sometimes held at the Half-Way House in Smithgrove (Kreamer) to try cases from the immediate neighborhood. At one of the court sessions, on account of the over-crowded condition of the room, the floor collapsed into a v-shaped position when it came to rest. Among those persons caught in the debris were some lawyers, court officials, and court visitors, among whom was this half-wit, Henry Mertz. Sometime later Mertz related the accident to a group of

lawyers in the court house at New Berlin while they were warming themselves at a stove. Mertz said the affair at the tavern reminded him of Dante's Inferno. When one of them asked the reason why, Mertz characteristically replied because "the lawyers were all found down below next to the fire". While engaged in his favorite pastime of merry-making and frolicking, dancing, and drinking on a certain Sunday at one of the hotels in the county, he tripped, fell over a chair, and sustained internal injuries from the effects of which he died. He is buried in the Penns Creek Cemetery.

Miscellaneous Group

Childhood memories cluster around the man with the grind-organ and the monkey, and the man with the two bears. The latter would have the bears climb trees, dance a jig, and even engage them in a wrestling match with himself. After the performances the usual tin cup would be passed around for pennies and even perchance for a few nickels and dimes. One can readily see and understand how fascinating such a strange demonstration must have been to a small country boy almost isolated from town life. A very old man, known to everybody as "Old Speck" carried a green box supported by a strap strung across his shoulder. What he had in his green box always remained a mystery. He never sold any wares so far as was known, and invariably became violently angry when inquiry was made about its probable contents. Many a parent used "Old Speck" as a threat to secure desirable behavior on the part of their children. JOE MILLER was a rather quaint character, with his pole across his shoulders supporting a bag at each end. In one bag was contained whatever additional clothing he had, while in the other he carried things for sale such as writing paper, baptismal certificates, and trinkets of various kinds. "IRISH CHARLIE" with his white beard and ready wit was a peddler of linen goods. A picturesque old man, wearing white gloves, a high white silk hat, and carrying a satchel was the seller of medicinal herbs and was known generally as "DR. SCHILLER", while JOHN FRITTER MOYER, better known as "Schtollfuss (clubfoot) Moyer", seemed to wander aimlessly about begging for his daily needs. He was a notorious liar but always rigidly restricted his wonder-tales to himself and his imagined achievements. SAM SCHOCH

was a rather queer character, possessed a childish mode of behavior, and consistently engaged in droll conduct. He lived all his life in and around Freeburg. In his better days, he was a wood cutter and a sawyer. In his latter years, he was a wanderer, possessed an abnormal fondness for babies, and had the habit of attending funerals at every possible opportunity. He always wore a red scarf, carried a bandanna handkerchief, and wore high boots with red tops. He attended church and Sunday School regularly. He played his violin and grind-organ at picnics and festivals for a penny collection.

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CHAPTER 11.

The Hard Life Of Our Forefathers

Without labor nothing prospers. — Sophocles

The First Settlers Lived the Hard Way

Living today with all the modern conveniences, it becomes next to impossible to appreciate the hard life of these early settlers. They knew nothing of vacation periods, recreation, nor the luxuries of life. The times and the environment compelled them to live the hard way. For this reason they became old and worn out long before their time. The Pennsylvania Germans felled the trees and dug out the stumps for their farm land while some of the other settlers simply killed the trees by girdling them, and then proceeded to farm with the dead trees intact. This hard life of the wilderness type had its compensations. It gave the settlers a strength of character, a possession of independence, and a spirit of freedom that can come only from the rugged disciplines of the strenuous life. It is only too true that the frontiers of civilization became the makers of civilization. There were comparatively few settlers in what is now Snyder County prior to the Revolutionary War. This account of the life of our forefathers applies chiefly to the closing days of the eighteenth century and most of the nineteenth century. This whole period is dealt with largely as a more or less distinct unit. No attempt is made to divide it into subdivisions to show transition stages from one culture period to the succeeding one. The fact is that a people may chronologically live at one and the same time, and still live in different cultures.

The first settlers began to cut down the forests, clear the land by burning the timber, construct one-story log-dwellings in the wilderness, and make settlements in regions infested by unfriendly natives. These cabins were crude in their construction, windows were a luxury, and the floors consisted of split logs or heavy slabs with the face smoothed. Instead of locks, the houses had bolts and bars of tough wood. At first the floors were bare but later on rag carpet and braided rugs were used. Door mats were made out of the husks of corn. The women braided the straw-hats for the men, and for the most part prepared the clothing for the family. It was literally true that the "woman's work was never done", so varied and multitudinous were her daily tasks. The type of life

of our forefathers was a sign of crude and primitive effectiveness. It was significant not only from the standpoint of the low cost of labor and materials but also because of its extreme simplicity. Our forefathers were constantly exposed to Indian attacks. They seldom enjoyed a sense of safety and security over long periods of time. Frequently they found their cabins burned, their wives murdered, and their children carried into captivity by these wild and bloodthirsty savages. Wild animals like panthers, wolves, owls, hawks, bears, minks, and weasels, attacked their domestic animals. The bears attacked the pigs, poultry, and even the cattle. There was no open road for any of these pioneer settlers. They had to overcome their dangers or be overcome by them. It was a lonely life in the wilderness with few or no immediate neighbors at all. It is indeed a wonder they survived, but they survived to lay the foundation of a great democratic state.

Their home life was all-sufficient and self-supporting. What they consumed they also produced. It had to be that way in the beginning. The means of transportation and communication with the centers of trade and commerce of the outside world were non-existent. The early roads were mere paths through the forests. Traveling at first was on foot or on horse-back. Only with the building of roads later on, came the four-ox team and the stage-coach, drawn by two or four horses to carry goods, mail, and passengers. Steel writing-pens were unknown and the writing had to be done by means of goose-quills that were cut and shaped in the form of pens. To be able to cut such pens required considerable skill, and this was regarded an essential qualification of the colonial schoolmaster. Books and newspapers were scarce. There wasn't much time nor opportunity to read. Their only means of illumination at first consisted of the lighted pine knot or the light from the open fire-place. By this light, mothers did their sewing, spinning, and reading.

Before the use of matches, fires were built by ways now thought queer. The fire was started by striking flint (stone) and steel smartly together and catching the sparks on lint or old dry rotten wood known as punk. The tinder-box was indispensable in every log cabin. The open fire-place with its swinging crane was used for cooking; outside bake-ovens were used for baking, since stoves really did not come into much use before the middle of the

eighteenth century. The big chimneys in houses were started on the ground and built upward through the house. A place was made in the chimney for holding the pine knots which frequently were lighted and used as lamps to work in the winter evenings. The first stoves were very crude, almost of an endless variety, but they served their purpose. In course of time came the lard lamp with a wick, then the tallow candle, the coal-oil lamp, and finally the electric light. The time of day was determined by marks on the floor, door or window. The dinner bell, mounted on a post placed in the yard, was used to call the men from the fields for their meals.

Household Equipment

In the days of the open hearth and the wood-stove, an enormous amount of wood was consumed to keep warm during the winter months. Wood was cheap since its only cost was the labor exacted in chopping it. The wood-box, located near the open fireplace or back of the stove, was indispensable in the early home. The box had to be piled high in preparation for the cold winter nights. It was the specially assigned chore for one of the children to carry armfuls of wood from the woodpile or the woodshed to the wood-box. Wood was about the only fuel used at first since coal could not be readily had and was also considered too expensive. Our thrifty forefathers were not willing to spend any money for anything that wasn't really necessary or for which a satisfactory substitute could be supplied. In addition to gathering the crops in the fall of the year, the men of the family were busily engaged for days in preparing the fire-wood for the winter months. The old trees of the woodlands and of the fields were used for this purpose. The thrift of the Pennsylvania Germans forbade anything to go to waste. Even the dead wood in field and forest was used for fire-wood instead of being allowed to decay where it lay. A large wood pile in the backyard of every home or a well-filled wood-shed was necessary to insure warmth and comfort during the winter season.

Often the barn was more commodious and even more attractive than the dwelling house. The outbuildings were the springhouse, the smokehouse, and the bake-cen. The wagon shed was usually built against the barn as a lean-to, instead of being a separate building. The thrifty and industrious farmer was judged by the way he

kept his farm in repairs, the fences in good shape, and the weeds cut down. Every farm had a good-sized orchard of apple trees, some peach, pear, and plum trees, and a row of cherry trees along the road. The lift pump, the draw well, the cistern, and the spring were the source of the water supply of the family. The watering trough at the end of a lane provided the water for the farm animals. The families were large. Children were an economic asset. The boys helped the father in the fields; the girls helped the mother in the house and garden. The housework consisted of keeping the house clean and orderly, doing the sewing, mending and knitting, preparing the meals, milking the cows, churning the butter, and often working in the fields in the summer months. In the winter the work consisted of spinning, weaving, and making the clothes for the family.

The tools of the early settlers were just as simple and crude as were their products. For the most part they were made of wood and made by hand in a rough but substantial manner. The wooden tubs, buckets, and barrels made to hold cider, water, vinegar, and other liquids were constructed out of staves that were split by hand from the native woods. The hoops that held the staves together were made of hickory withes split in two and shaved down to the proper thickness, by a drawing knife. The hoops were held in place by the simple device of notching. When the hoops were driven into place on the side of the tub or barrel, they held just about as well as the iron hoops of later days. The chairs, benches, tables, brushes, brooms, and other household equipment were all made of wood. For the most part, the chairs and benches had solid seats. The modern cane-bottom had not yet come into existence. On rare occasions, the exceptionally skilled workman split hickory wood and dressed it to an inch in width and to a very small fraction of an inch in thickness and braided it for a safe and slightly elastic back and seat. This kind of a chair may still be found in very few homes and in antique shops. Many of the dishes and bowls were made out of wood or of baked clay. If any metal utensils were in use at all, they were made of pewter, cast iron, or copper. Knives, forks and spoons had already come into general use. The household furniture was simple, all home-made, and consisted of a table, benches, and chairs, and a cupboard. Frequently shelves were built along the wall to serve as a cupboard. Wooden

pegs (zappe) in the walls were used for hanging up clothes.

The most interesting, romantic, and fascinating piece of household furniture was the old-fashioned four-poster bed and its companion, the trundle bed. The four posts were about five to six feet high. The frame was from two and one-half to three feet from the floor. The trundle bed was built low enough so that the small children of the family could get in and out of the bed without help. There were two arrangements of the bed. The one was of simple floor slats extending across from rail to rail, fitting into mortised grooves to prevent sliding. The other arrangement was by means of ropes. There was an ingenious arrangement of pegs fastened to the rails on each of the four sides of the bed around which the bed rope was interlaced and criss-crossed from side to side. On this rope bed was placed a chaff-tick, which was a muslin bag into which was stuffed short-cut straw. Here the members of the family could stretch out during the night for rest and sleep. After the straw in the chaff-tick had been in use for several months, it no longer remained evenly distributed, and the sleeper discovered himself largely with only a rope or slat support. To avoid this, the straw was changed twice a year, usually at spring and fall house-cleaning times. The old chaff-tick for the most part was more durable than comfortable, but the early settler at the end of the day had a tired body and could rest and sleep despite it rather than because of it. The cover or feather bed (fedder bett) was a device for the purpose of keeping the body warm during the long winter months and probably has never been excelled by anything more modern. A person who has never slept under a feather-tick on a zero-cold winter night with the wind blowing the snow in through the open window has missed one of life's great experiences. The down of the goose was much preferred for a feather-tick since chicken or goose feathers tended to grow soggy and heavy with wear and failed to provide the same comfort and warmth.

The method of illumination in the home life of the pioneer settler now proves strange and inadequate. A kettle-full of melted tallow was used as the material for the making of tallow candles. The wicks of the required length were dipped into the melted tallow and then allowed to cool before being dipped again. By successive dip-pings and coolings, tallow candles were brought to the required diameters. Most of the pioneer households had

candle molds usually of six cylinders, and into the center of each cylinder was suspended the wick, and then the molten tallow was poured into it.

Even before tallow candles were in use, whatever work was done by the members of the family in the long winter evenings such as spinning, weaving, knitting, or perchance reading, had to be done either by the light of the open fireplace or by the light of a burning pine-knot, or by the light of a so-called lamp commonly known among our forefathers as a "fett amschel". This was a lard-burning lamp in which the light was produced by the burning wick dipped in the lard, fat, or oil. The lamp was somewhat bird-shaped like a robin or a thrush (hence the name amschel) with the head and neck parts hollow through which the wick extended to the body part. The body part contained a cavity for the oil or fat. This hollow portion or reservoir was closed by means of a hinged lid. The lamp had a device by which it could be hung on a nail in the wall.

The wills and testaments of Snyder County people for the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century provide information about the simplicity of their lives, changes in the money values of different articles, the social customs, and the hard struggle to make a living. The wills of the first half of the nineteenth century named as objects of inheritance household equipment and utensils peculiar to that period such as the dough tray, pewter plates, hackled flax, ten-plated stove, leather for making shoes at home, the bucking tub (bauchzuwwer) used for bleaching cloth or pickling meat, the spinning-wheel, the loom and reel, frying pans, money in terms of pounds and shillings, steelyards, casks, copper kettles, iron pots, earthen pots, churns, the coffee pot, and the coffee mill.

The Means of Subsistence

The cooking was done in the open fire-place, since stoves were not in general use much before the middle of the eighteenth century. The food was simple and coarse, and there was no lack of a healthy appetite. Often corn-meal and molasses, and nothing else, constituted the breakfast. These early settlers subsisted very largely on the vegetables and grains they produced in the fields, fruits such as strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries, walnuts, chestnuts, and hickorynuts, maple syrup and maple sugar, and the meats from wild animals such as

the deer, bear, rabbit, wild turkey, wild pigeon, grouse, quail, and the squirrel. Game of all kinds and fish were plentiful; there were many shad in the river. These early settlers "made a living" for themselves and their families, but in these modern days people tend to "buy their living". Very little money was handled. Barter was the method of business between neighbors and with stores.

The Yard and Garden

Every rural homestead had its yard and garden. Both were relatively large because land was cheap and the people wanted plenty of room. Both the yard and garden were enclosed with a paling or picket fence (glabbord) that had to be whitewashed regularly in the spring of the year. Neglecting to do this was generally regarded as a sign of indolence and carelessness. The yard contained most of the outbuildings of the home. It was a grassy spot planted with all types of flowers and vines, and fruit trees such as the plum, pear, apricot, apple, and cherry. It had its full share of grape arbors. The mowing of the yard was done with the scythe since the lawnmower had not yet come into existence. The walks were made of flag stones, gravel, boards or planks. In the front part of the yard was found the lift pump. At the gate entrance was the ever-present hitching post. In the back part of the yard was the out-of-door fire-place with its protecting walls and its iron kettles to heat the water for the weekly washing.

The garden was the vegetable-producing plot of land of the home. The garden was more fertile than the farm land generally in the same community because it was made that way. It was more protected, received more fertilizer, and was given more care. It was spaded instead of plowed, and made ready for planting and seeding by the use of the garden rake in place of the harrow. The soil was much more pulverized than that of the regular field. The growing crops were also more frequently and more carefully cultivated. While the men usually dug the garden, it was peculiarly regarded the woman's task to cultivate it and to care for it. In times of drought, sprinkling was a common practice. The garden was usually divided into plots, and these plots were reserved for particular vegetables. These plots were separated from one another by paths made by boards placed on edge

and supported by stakes. Scraping these paths at regular intervals with a garden hoe to keep them free from grass and weeds constituted the laborious task of the growing boy. The garden crops were the stable vegetables such as lettuce, endive, cabbage, onions, beans, peas, cucumbers, asparagus, squash, pumpkins, turnips, water-melons, sweet corn, currants, grapes, and early potatoes.

Connected with the garden was a device for raising garden plants. It was commonly called the cabbage "kutsch". It consisted of a raised platform supporting a comparatively shallowbox filled with fertile soil for the purpose of raising plants such as cabbage, celery, and tomatoes that were to be transplanted at the proper time. The seed of these vegetables was sown in the box, and then much care given when germination began in order to avoid excesses of sunshine, rain, drought, and to provide the best growing conditions. When the young plants were sufficiently matured, they were transplanted and then cultivated until the vegetables were ready to be harvested. Few people in these modern days go to the trouble of raising their own celery or cabbage plants but purchase them instead in stores and greenhouses.

The settlers raised the corn, wheat, and rye, and ground it into meal and flour for food purposes. At a very early period grist and flour mills came into general use in most communities. People drank a beverage made from browned rye or wheat as a substitute for coffee. Bear's fat was used for shortening. Maple syrup and wild honey served as substitutes for butter, jellies, and preserves. Those few who had butter kept it in a trough of running spring water in the spring-house or in a bucket suspended in the wall. There was practically no such thing as the canning of fruits and vegetables. This practice came later, and with it came crocks of applebutter, jellies, preserves, and pickles. Many families had their cask (schtenner) of sauergraut, a barrel of vinegar, a barrel of hard cider, and jugs of home-made wine. Drying fruit was the common method of laying it in store for the winter. There was no need for an empty larder. Salt was scarce and salt springs were few and far between, hence salt was highly prized, and sold for several dollars per bushel. Because of its great scarcity, it was seldom used, and spilling it was much deplored.

The Clothing Worn by Our Forefathers

The clothing worn by the early settler was of the

home-spun variety. It was durable in the extreme and as artistic as the people cared to take pains to make it. Wool and flax were raised for clothing. The sheep furnished the wool, and the wife and daughters spun and wove it into stout home-spun cloth. The flax provided the yarn that was woven into cloth for garments such as shirts and dresses. Such a thing as the purchase of woven cloth in the stores was a thing unheard of, and certainly there was no such a thing as the purchase of ready-made clothing.

Sheep were raised by nearly every farmer both for the wool and the meat. The sheep were shorn in May and the wool was then taken to a large flowing brook or creek to be washed. After being thoroughly washed, it was spread out on a grassy spot to dry. All dirt and foreign particles were carefully picked out by hand. This process of picking wool and removing all dirt was known as "woll schtoppen". The wool was then tied into large bundles and sent to a carding mill for further cleaning and dressing. This was done to prepare it for spinning into yarn, and for knitting and weaving purposes. Carding mills were quite common all over the county at one time. The wool was then spun into yarn and made into stockings, mittens, and garments generally. Sometimes flax and wool were combined in about equal proportions in the making of linsey-woolsey for heavy underwear for winter use. The women raised the sheep, usually sheared them, cleaned the wool, and spun and wove the yarn into clothing. The women also knitted the stockings, mittens, and other garments, and then dyed or colored them by the juices of certain kinds of plants, berries, and vegetables, in order to avoid the dead monotony of white. The outer sheath of the onion made a correct but homely tan color, the saffron flower added a bright yellow, old indigo furnished the shades of blue, and the oak bark yielded a darker brown. For bleaching purposes, nothing was better than soaking fabrics in vinegar, and then spreading them out to receive the dew and the open sunlight.

It was a rather common practice for farmers to raise flax. This was necessary to produce the raw materials needed in the manufacture of certain types of clothing. Flax could be raised without very much difficulty. It was quite a hard and prolonged process to change the flax into trousers for the men and dresses for the women, or into towels and linen. The women generally took

care of the flax from the sowing of the seed to the pulling, breaking, and hackling of the flax, and the spinning and weaving of the cloth. The cloth was made into garments by the women also. The flax-seed was sown in the spring, usually in April. When the flax had ripened and was ready to be harvested, it was pulled up by the roots, bound in small sheaves, and stood up in shocks to dry. It was necessary that the stalks were left in the open field for weeks so as to become brittle and thoroughly bleached by the dew, rain, and sunshine. After it was well dried, it was hauled to the threshing floor, where the seeds were removed by pounding, and then cleaned of all chaff to be put on the market, or taken to the oil-mill and made into linseed oil or flax-seed oil. The flax-seed oil was much in demand for medicinal and commercial uses. Oil presses were quite common in various parts of the county at this time.

After the flax bundles had become thoroughly dry and brittle, usually by being placed on a rack before the open fire-place, the heat of a fire in the out-of-doors, or in the sun, the flax bundles had to go through a process known as "breaking". This was achieved by an instrument consisting of a wooden frame with blades of wood across it into which other blades of wood attached to a handle fitted as the handle was raised and lowered by means of its hinge. With one hand, the flax was held over the lower jaw of the brake, and with the other hand the upper jaw of the brake was operated across the flax. This operation was continued until the supporting part of the flax plant was pretty well removed. In other words, by this process the fibres were separated from the woody part of the plant. The portion of the plant that still remained was the linen texture which was now ready for the "skutching" process. The skutching board was an instrument for the purpose of cleaning the fibres from the broken particles of the stalks. At other times it was accomplished on a larger scale by a machine commonly known as the "skutching mill" which roughly consisted of a wheel with arms of oak or hickory wood, and was driven either by horse-power or water-power. This mill removed all the rough particles from the tow or the short coarse fibres. This task was rather tedious and prolonged.

The next step in the process to prepare the materials

for spinning was known as "hackling". An instrument called the hackle was a comb-like arrangement consisting of a block of wood eight to ten inches long by four inches in width, containing from fifty to seventy-five pointed metal spikes about four inches long. The flax fibres were made thoroughly clean by repeatedly drawing the fibres across the comb. In this way the coarse flax fibres or the tow also became separated from the finer flax fibres. The coarser and the finer fibres were now ready in turn to be put on the distaff for spinning. The spinning wheel was operated by the foot on the treadle, and the hands were employed in drawing the flaxen film out of the distaff, and through the flier to the spool as yarn or thread. By means of the spinning wheel, the tow or the coarser fibres were spun into coarse yarn, and the flax fibres into the finer yarn. From these spools, the yarn or thread was passed over a reel and made into hanks, and these in turn were wound into balls. A ball was usually made from about a half-dozen hanks. Then two or more threads were twisted together into a heavier yarn. This was done by means of the spinning wheel. This heavier yarn was again made into hanks and in turn into balls ready for the weaver. After the spinning came the weaving on the loom, this also was done by hand and foot. The tow yarn was woven into cloth for garments or bags; the finer fibres were woven into linen for dresses and shirts.

The shoes were also home-manufactured. In turn settlers would get the skins of animals made into leather and then the leather made into shoes and boots. They would peel bark, and take the bark and the skins to a tannery. The bark would probably be ground by their own horsepower. The hides would be left at the tannery for a year's tanning. The pay for the tanning was probably one-half of the leather. During the winter the settlers or the itinerant cobbler would take his rounds to make shoes and boots; cowhides for the men and calf-skin shoes for the women and children. The shoemaker customarily charged fifty cents a day with room and board for making shoes. Boots, however, were not in general use until the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Shoes were very expensive and this explains why so many people, especially the children, went barefooted. Often when they traveled, they would carry their shoes in order to save them from wearing out too soon.

Outbuildings of the Home

A bake-oven, dry house, smoke-house, ground cellar, and a cabbage kutsch were considered the five essentials in the backyard of every rural home sixty and more years ago. The bake-oven may be defined as a chamber of fire bricks used for baking bread and pastries, and for heating and drying fruits and vegetables. Instead of depending on the bake-oven for drying purposes, some homesteads had a special house constructed for that purpose. This was called the dry house. In the lower part was placed a stove to supply the needed heat, and in the upper part were successive rows or layers of drawers with meshed bottoms for the heat to pass through to the fruits and vegetables. The bake-oven was built round at the top, along the two sides, and the back part, somewhat resembling a bee-hive. A chimney was constructed on the back portion of the oven. Some bake-ovens had an additional chimney in the front for providing an escape upward for the intense heat upon opening the oven door. Its roof was the common gable style with ridge-pole and rafters. Its size varied considerably, depending upon the size of the family and ranging from six to eight feet on a side. Some of the bake-ovens were supported on four log-posts, each post resting on a foundation of stone, while other bake-ovens were built upon a compact foundation with a base equivalent in size to that of the oven. The front side of the oven was straight and usually had only one opening about twelve inches by eighteen inches in size. An iron door was used to keep the heat in the oven during the baking periods.

When baking day arrived, the oven was filled with good fire-wood, and a roaring fire was built in the oven for the purpose of heating its brick walls to a sufficiently high temperature. This high temperature was indicated by the whitish appearance of the bricks of the oven. Then the ash and embers were removed by a rake or scraper called a "kitsch". This scraper consisted of a long handle attached to a small piece of board fastened cross-wise. This board had to be frequently replaced since the intense heat of the oven soon burned it to a small portion of its original size. The oven was now ready for the bread and pies to be baked. The bread was put into the oven first and later the pies since it took longer to bake the former than the latter. The bread and pies were put into the oven and later were removed by means of a long-

handled paddle, the handle being about four feet in length and the paddle part about twelve inches square. The long handle was necessary to enable the baker to avoid the intense heat coming forth from the oven. As the baking continued, the housewife made repeated tests to determine just when the baking was completed. Her tests were the color and the weight of the loaf, the time exposed to the heat, and the surface appearance of a broom splint upon its withdrawal from the loaf. It usually took about one hour to bake the bread and considerable less for pies.

The bake-oven was used for much of the family baking in the long ago even though the cook-stove at the time already had come into general use. It appears that custom is so strong that it persists to function even though newer and better ways of doing things have been found out. It also has to be borne in mind that the earliest cook-stoves were far different from those of later years, and by no means so convenient. Long logs could be burned in them with the one end in the fire-pot and the other end supported by a trestle placed in the room. As the end burned off, the log was extended correspondingly into the fire place. Bake-ovens fell into general disuse during the last decades of the last century.

The smoke-house was found in the backyard of every home before modern ways of curing meats were employed. The smoke-house was a small building about six feet long, seven feet wide, and six feet in height, usually with a sloping roof instead of a gable end. Rods were extended from beam to beam at the top, from which were suspended the hams and bacon to be cured. In some smoke-houses there was found in its center a cylindrically-shaped piece of wood in an upright position capable of being rotated, with arms extended from which the hams were suspended. The smoke fire was built on the ground floor of the smoke-house.

The ground cellar consisted of an artificially-made place or room below the surface of the ground which served as a storage place for apples, potatoes, cabbage, and other articles of food for winter use. The ground cellar was located along a sloping hillside and its top and sides were walled, usually with brick, giving it the appearance of a tunnel. The entrance to the cellar was by means of a well-constructed door. This underground room served as a preservative of the food since its temperature was

high enough to prevent freezing and yet low enough to prevent the decay of the fruits and vegetables. It afforded the family the use of fruits and vegetables out of season. Instead of a ground cellar, some families excavated a depression in the yard or garden and then bedded the bottom rather heavily with straw. Upon it were piled the winter apples and cabbage in a conical-shaped heap. This was then coated with a thick layer of long rye straw and covered with ground as a protection against the winter weather. A small entrance way to its interior provided ready access to its contents.

Most of the farm homesteads years ago were located at a spring or near a stream of water. The object was to make available an abundant supply of fresh water for domestic use. A building usually was erected over the spring as a matter of shelter or at least near to it so that the spring water could be used for household purposes. It is for this reason that the name "springhouse" became applied to the building. The cold spring water was utilized in preserving the milk, cream, butter, and other articles of food in daily use. These food products were kept in crocks or casks immersed in the spring or placed in a trough of water fed directly from the spring. The care of the milk and cream in crocks without refrigeration often proved to be a hard task. The cream was skimmed from the milk by means of a large ladle. In the last quarter of the last century, creameries came into general use in farm houses. A creamery was a box-shaped affair consisting of several cans for the milk that were immersed in water containing ice to prevent the milk from prematurely turning sour. At the bottom of each can was found a faucet to tap the milk and cream. An exposed glass portion of the cans indicated when all of the milk had been drained off and when the cream level had been reached. The creamery was a great improvement over crocks for the care of the milk. The springhouse was indispensable for a well-regulated home. The introduction of refrigeration into homes has made springhouses needless in these modern times.

The care of the milk and cream, the making of the butter and cheese; and their preservation required much of the housewife's time and energy. Churning the butter was considered one of the tasks of the older children of the family. The butter churn consisted of either a rectangular or a cylindrical-shaped container supported

in either a horizontal or vertical position. The agitation necessary for the cream to produce the butter was accomplished in some churns by paddles fastened to a rotating rod to which was attached a crank, operated by hand, while in other churns without paddles, the necessary agitation was produced from the motion of the churn itself. The butter bowl, the paddle for "working" the butter, and the butter-mold, were all made of wood.

A half century and more ago, many families had an ice-house in which was stored ice for use during the hot summer months. This ice was harvested on a near-by creek or the river during the colder portion of the winter. Sometimes adjoining farmers had an ice-house in common. Filling the ice-house was a community project in the way of neighbors helping one another. The ice was used to preserve the milk and cream, and to make ice-cream for the family and neighbors. Ice-cream was not very common in the long ago, and therefore was considered a great luxury by most people.

Homemade Soap

The soap used in the pioneer home was homemade. Such a thing as buying soap on the market for family use was a thing unheard of. The first essential thing in the manufacture of soap was to have good hard wood-ash from the kitchen stove to produce the necessary lye. This lye was obtained by leeching the wood-ash. The wood-ash was first put into a container known as a lye-hopper. This container was shaped like an inverted, truncated pyramid, constructed of boards and supported by four strong posts. Sometimes just an ordinary barrel was used for the purpose. At the bottom of this lye-hopper were placed various kinds of husks, straw, or grass, to serve as a sieve or strainer. Then the wood-ash was poured into the hopper, a bucket of wood-ash at a time. Each layer of ash had some straw and lime added, and was sprinkled with rain water. The water was necessary to dissolve the alkali out of the ash. The alkali was largely potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3), and this was subsequently changed into potassium hydroxide (KOH) by the lime that was mixed with the ash. When the hopper was filled with the ash, it was permitted to remain in that condition for at least a day, then a plentiful supply of hot water was poured on the top. The water in seeping through the ash, formed the lye which trickled

though the small openings at the bottom of the hopper into a vessel placed underneath it.

This lye was then boiled in an iron kettle until its strength was sufficient to float an egg. Then the pieces of fat, grease, greaves or cracklings and slabs that had been saved from the meals during the year by the thrifty housewife, were added and the mixture further boiled until the oily and fatty substances had been thoroughly dissolved, and soap and another substance known as glycerine were formed. Salt was then added to separate the resulting soap from the liquid that came to the surface and to harden the soap to be cut into small blocks for use. The soap and the glycerine were poured into a container as a soft dark brown, jelly-like substance known as soft soap, since it failed to harden into cakes. Should the soap not be hard enough by the following day, it was put back into the iron kettle, more lye was added, and it was boiled all over again. This was sometimes necessary since the ingredients used in the making of the soap were evidently not carefully measured and weighed as would be expected in more modern days.

Butchering Days

Butchering time came late in the fall or early winter. This called for suitable equipment such as sharp knives, saws, kettles for preparing boiling water, a large hogshead for scalding the hogs, scrapers for removing the bristles, gallows for suspending the carcasses, grinders and choppers, sausage stuffers, and lard rendering appliances. The old hog gallows stood not far from the "wash house". The four notched beams near its top fairly reeked with the blood of hogs that had been strung upon it. It was one of those crude tools with which our forefathers wrought. While these early tools were crude indeed, and oftentimes cumbersome to operate, our forefathers worked with them successfully and without complaint. It must be said to their everlasting credit that what they lacked in the convenience of modern equipment, they made up by their skill of handling these tools and by their steady, hard work. The hog gallows in due time was displaced by the more modern and more easily-used tripod.

Farming Implements

The soil for the most part was productive and the early settlers turned to agriculture for a living. The

farming implements were crude and usually homemade and handmade. The farmer had no wagons such as were used later. At first the wagon wheels were simply blocks of tree trunks, and harness consisted of the untanned hides of animals. Skilled artisans were often not to be had to make and repair implements and equipment. The farmer had to have the necessary tools to shoe his own oxen and horses, and to repair the broken parts of the harness or the farming implement. The blacksmith shop and the carpenter shop were an essential part of the equipment of a farmer. In course of time came the village blacksmith shop, the carpenter shop, the saddler shop, wagon and buggy shops, the cabinet maker, planing mill, tannery, tin smiths, and the gun smiths. All could be found in the various localities and the work done by them was more and more relinquished by the farmer. The buggy shops made gigs, springwagons, carriages, and phaetons, as well as sleds, bob sleds, and heavy farm sleds. There is no gainsaying but that the farmer and his wife had a hard life before the days of improved devices and labor-saving farm machinery. Hard work and long working days developed strong bodies and a hardiness that enabled the more vigorous to survive and caused the weak and sickly to die young. With only a few simple and crude tools and poorly cultivated soil, the returns were often meager. Everything on the farm had to be done the hard way. It took much hard work and long hours of labor to remove the stumps and stones and to bring the soil to a proper degree of cultivation so as to produce fair crops. Children stayed at home to work for their parents until they were twenty-one years old. Any son or daughter who failed to do this was considered ungrateful and unworthy of being called a child of the home.

In general practice, the oxen came first as beasts of burden in the fields. The census of 1860 states there were twenty-five oxen in use on the farms of the county. As late as 1904, oxen were used on Snyder County farms. In January of that year, a sled load of ties, drawn by two such well-trained animals, was brought to Middleburg by Abraham Wieand of Beavertown. The sight proved somewhat extraordinary since it was indicative of very primitive ways of living. Wieand carried on his farm and field work at the time by means of these animals in place of horses. A wooden yoke was essential for the

team to pull together whether hitched to a wooden beam plow or an ox-cart. The plow first used was made of a wooden beam with wooden handles attached and with the point made of wrought iron or steel and the moldboard covered with sheet iron. A brush drag served the purpose of a harrow to pulverize the soil. A little later came the spike-toothed harrow and still later the spring-tooth-harrow. The roller was originally a log of suitable size which was used to crush the clods of clay. Later the roller was made of planks of a large diameter with a seat mounted on it. After the soil had been prepared, the seeding or planting was done by hand and covered by the hoe, harrow, or plow. The sower would throw a bag about his left shoulder about one-quarter full of grain as he fared forth to the field. When his left foot advanced, he reached into the bag for a handful of grain (wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, or flax) and as the right foot was thrust forward, he scattered the seed with his right hand. Broadcasting the seed constituted a systematic and rhythmic process. A good sower left no vacant spots nor had any overlappings. Grain drills did not come into use until about the beginning of the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The corn and potatoes were all originally planted by hand and covered over with the foot or hoe. The first cornplanters were rather cumbersome machines, hard to handle, and not very efficient. They planted only one row at a time and were drawn by one horse. Later the two-horse riding cornplanter with fertilizer attachment which planted two rows at a time came into general use.

Some crops had to be cultivated while growing such as corn and the potatoes. The cultivators of olden days were simple and crudely constructed, had only one or two shares, and were operated altogether by manpower. They had no wheels and were homemade. Later the number of shares was increased to five, seven and even more. In the eastern part of Snyder County, the first horse-drawn cultivator was made by Robert Erdley, a farmer of Penn Township, about the year 1880. John I. Woodruff and William H. Wagner of Selinsgrove, improved the walking and riding cultivators and took out two different patents as improvements were made, but for lack of necessary capital, did not manufacture it on a large scale.

Harvesting the Crops

The harvesting of the crops of wheat, rye, oats, barley, and buckwheat, was done at first by the sickle. The sickle was a reaping implement about three feet long with a crescent-shaped blade of steel mounted on a short wooden handle. There were right and left hand sickles. In the one the bevel was on top when the sickle was held in the right hand; in the other, the bevel was on the top when the sickle was held in the left hand. The point was blunt from three to four inches, to pick up the grain and to fold it together. The sharp cutting edge served to throw the grain into the arms of the reaper. Sickling was a slow and laborious process of harvesting. Many of the women were as skilled with the sickle as were the men. The general practice was to have two sicklers work together, the one on the right side laid the grain with the butt ends toward his partner and the other on the left side laid the head ends toward the left. In this way a sheaf requiring four handfuls of grain could readily be made up.

With the passing of stumps, the grain cradle came into use and gradually displaced the sickle. The cradle consisted of six long, curved wooden fingers arranged parallel to the cutting blade of about the same length, upon which the mown grain lay flat. By a proper movement of the cradle, the grain could be placed in regular rows. The cradle was probably not in extensive use much before the middle of the nineteenth century when it replaced almost entirely the sickle. A wooden rake was employed in raking after the cradle. The grain was bound in sheaves by hand, shocked, and later hauled into the barn. The scythe was an instrument consisting of a long curved blade made of steel attached at an angle to a curved handle called a snath. The scythe was used to cut grass and weeds. From two to six men, working from sun to sun, making heavy swaths or windows across the field, could mow a large amount of grass in a single day. When the mowers would stop to "sharpen up", it was quite like the sound of a ringing chorus of steel echoing across the field. The mown grass was spread and left to cure for several days. It was then raked up with wooden rakes, and placed on heaps to be hauled into the barn. Later came the reaper and the mower. Among the first, there was a combination that could be used to cut down the grass or grain, and a plat-

form attached on which the grass or grain was collected. It then had to be pulled off at successive intervals by means of a wooden rake. Therefore, it required two persons to operate such a machine. A person can readily see that these first reapers were cumbersome affairs which required three or four horses and two persons to operate them.

This matter of pulling off the grain from the platform when the accumulation amounted to a full-sized sheaf constituted very hard work, and particularly so, when the grain was very tall and heavy, and its growth dense. It was soon recognized that the mower and the reaper should be built separately to secure the necessary efficiency. After this harvesting device came the self-raking harvesting machine with revolving rakes that automatically pushed off the grain from the platform at successive intervals. This device could be so set as to produce any desired size of a sheaf. Then came the self-binding harvester. This machine was quite generally regarded at first as an object of curiosity and considered very strange and mysterious in its workings. Probably the first self-binding harvester in Snyder County was used by a Beaver Township farmer during the harvesting season of 1879. The evolution from the old-style reaper to the present binder and combine is truly a fascinating story.

In haying and harvesting, instead of each family working separately, it was the common practice of families to work together completing the haying and harvesting in turn. It was a common thing to find a dozen or more harvest hands working together on the same farm. Women worked in the hay and harvest fields. Frequently, the men would go to work in the fields with the rising of the sun, and without breakfast. They then worked until seven o'clock when breakfast was served; then a lunch was brought to the field about the middle of the forenoon and then the work continued until dinner time. After dinner, the work was resumed until five o'clock when supper was served, and after supper, the work was continued until dark. Liquor was thought necessary to get the crops away. Distilleries were rather common in the county because the farmers found it easier to market the liquor than the grains out of which the liquor was manufactured.

The old-fashioned corn-husker is another example of

bare but efficient simplicity. The corn-husker was a pointed hickory-stick in the middle of which were cut two slight grooves which held in place the ends of a leather thong through which the fingers of the laborer were passed. This primitive tool is still preferred by many thousands of corn huskers to the many more modern metal devices for the removal of the husk.

Threshing the Grain

The old-fashioned way of threshing the grain was by using horses or cattle to tread out the grain, or by the use of the flail. This work was done during the long winter months. In fact most of the winter months were occupied by the threshing. The grain was beaten, shaken, or trampled from the heads on a smooth floor called the threshing floor. This might be in the open with the floor formed by compacting the clay soil. When barns were constructed, one portion was built as a threshing-floor and was made of close-fitted planks. When the sheaves were opened and the grain arranged properly on the floor, usually with the heads toward the center of the floor, cattle or horses were driven round and round until the grains on the top side were trampled from the heads. Then the straw was turned over and tramped some more until all the grains had been threshed out. The straw was separated from the grains and chaff by means of a large wooden fork of three or four prongs called a shaking-fork ("schittelgawell"). Then the fanning mill was used, or perchance the air-currents, to separate the grain and the chaff, and the grains were made ready for the market.

At threshing time, the use of the flail was well-nigh universal. The flail is a heavy club with a hole at the one end. Through this hole were passed leather or raw-hide thongs which were securely tied around a groove in the six-foot handle. This permitted the club to swing freely on the end of the handle which served as a pivot. The sheaves of grain were opened and the stalks were spread on the threshing floor. Two or three men stood facing each other, and, at a given signal, the flailing began. This had to be done in strict clock-time rhythm else there was the risk of a crash, delay, or possible injury. Three men could work on the same spot on the sheaves. When four men worked, a second spot was chosen and the men worked in pairs. All day long, one could hear

the steady thump, thump, thump, of this primitive method of threshing. This barn-floor music could be heard for a mile or two, depending on the direction of the wind and the atmospheric conditions. Threshing with flails was a prolonged and tedious process. It had, however, at least one advantage in that the straw could be preserved better by this method of threshing than by the treading-out method. So long as rye straw was needed for binding the corn shocks and the sheaves of cornfodder, the flail continued to find a place in threshing rye even after the introduction of the threshing machine. After the threshing, the chaff and the straw were raked away and the grain shoveled aside for winnowing or separating the grain and the chaff.

In course of time, harvesting by the sickle, cradle, and the scythe was successively replaced by the mower, the harvester, and the self-binder. Threshing the grain by the use of farm animals and by the flail had to give way to threshing by machinery. The first threshing machine was a crude apparatus consisting practically of only an inclined trough or chute with a rapidly rotating spiked-cylinder attached to remove the grains from the heads of the stalks. The sheaves of grain were opened and spread out and then pushed down the chute into the rapidly rotating spiked-cylinder. The cylinder was turned by means of power furnished by horses walking in a tread mill. This was a mechanism containing a moveable, endless platform placed at an angle with the horizontal and enclosed in a frame work a little longer than the width.

A fanning machine had to be employed later to separate the grain from the chaff. By such long-drawn-out successive steps, threshing became a very prolonged affair occupying much time during the winter season. In course of time the threshing machine was so improved that threshing and winnowing were carried on practically as simultaneous processes. This improved threshing machine became known as a grain separator. It proved to be a great labor-saving and time-saving device for the farmers.

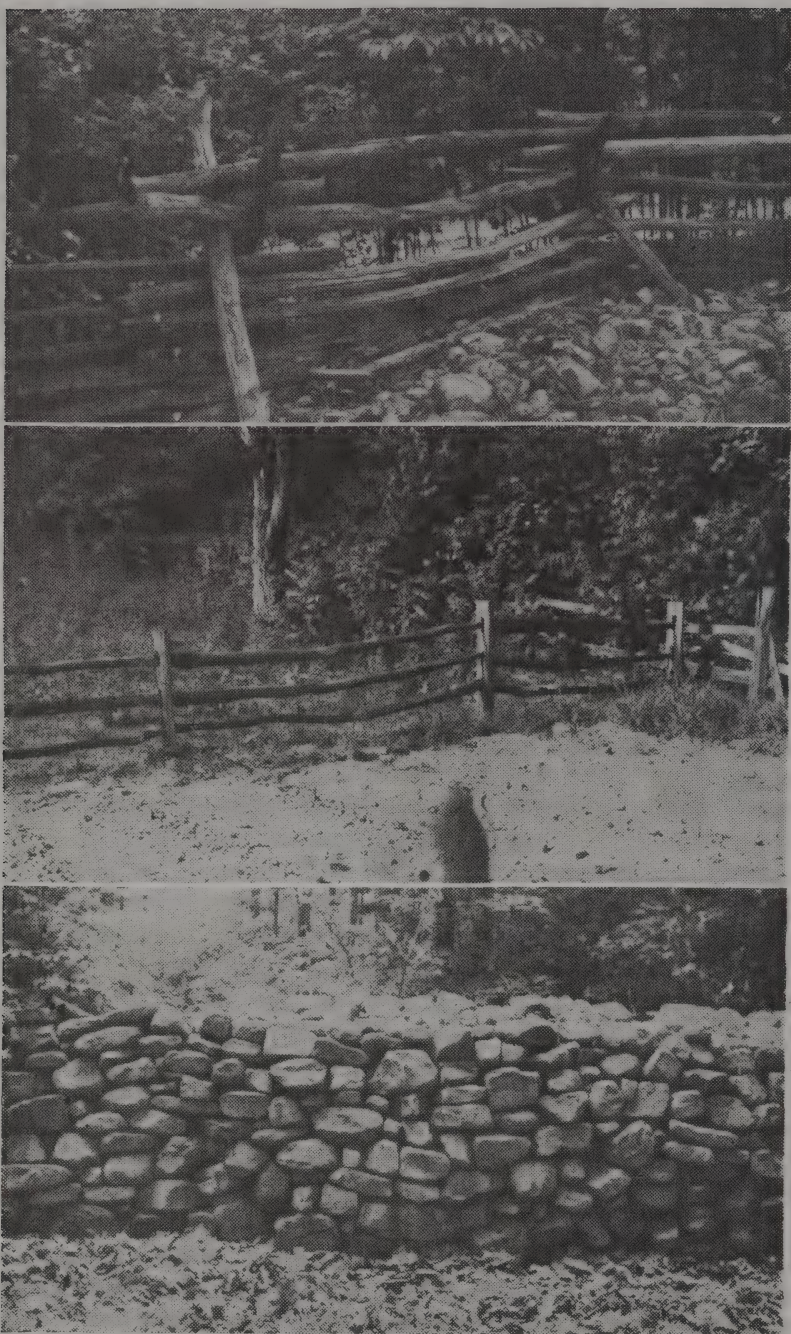
The grain separator was large and heavy, and resembled very much the modern threshing machine. It had to be hand-fed instead of being a self-feeder and possessed a straw-carrier instead of a blower. When threshing was begun, the grain separator was pulled up to the entrance of the barn floor by a team of horses,

then turned around. The team was then hitched to the back, and it was pulled into the barn. The horse-power machine, which was placed some twenty feet from the entrance to the barn floor, was a flat-bottomed, cog-wheel apparatus, to which were attached four long beams of oak-wood, extending in as many directions. Two horses were hitched to each beam. With the eight horses going around in a circle in the same direction, the power produced was transmitted by a series of rotating or tumbling iron-rods, coupled together, to the threshing machine. It was necessary for a driver, with whip in hand, to stand on a platform erected above the power-machine, to keep the horses pulling steadily and regularly. Such a threshing outfit was frequently owned jointly by a number of the farmers of the neighborhood. A little later the steam-engine threshing machine replaced the horse-power threshing machine. At first the steam engine had to be transported from place to place by horses. When the traction engine came into use, it moved the entire threshing outfit on its own power. The owner of a threshing outfit made a business of threshing, going from farm to farm, to do all the threshing. Usually two rounds were necessary to complete the work, the first round was necessary for seed and the second for the completion of the work. The cost for threshing was three cents per bushel for wheat and rye, and two cents for oats.

Enclosures

In the olden days, fields were generally enclosed by some kind of a fence. This made it necessary for farmers to spend much time in building fences and in keeping them in repairs. The building and repair work required the use of such tools as the axe, hammer, digging iron, grubbing hoe, the maul, wedge, and the shovel. Fences were considered necessary to protect the crops from stray cattle. In fact fences were regarded so important that their condition was generally accepted as an index of the thrift and industry of the farmer.

The common forms of fences were the worm or rail fence or the stake-and-rider fence, the hedge fence, the brush fence, and the post fence, followed later, when the land was considered more valuable by the board fence, and the smooth or barbed wire fences. Where stones were plentiful, farmers would make an enclosure with stone. The old type worm fence was an interesting structure.



A Common Type of Enclosure Fifty Years Ago
Photographs taken in the County

The rails were usually split during the winter months. The only tools required in the making of the rail were the axe, wedge, saw, and the maul (hols schlegel). The rails were of uniform length of about twelve feet and were arranged in a zig-zag fashion. At the corners, two shorter but heavier rails, placed securely in the ground, crossed over the six or eight rails, and a heavy rail was placed on the top of the fork. This made a secure and rather inexpensive fence since the timber was plentiful. On the other hand, it was very wasteful since the fence occupied a wide strip of land. In the numerous fence corners, raspberries, blackberries, elderberries, and fruit trees such as the peach, cherry, pear, and apple, would grow. It required much of the farmer's time to keep these corners clean of weeds, grass, and brush. Much more work was required to build the post fence than the worm fence. The posts had to be made with holes into which were fitted the flattened ends of the rails; the posts had to be placed securely in the ground to the depth of about two feet. The rails also had to be more nearly straight and of better quality. Paling fences enclosed the yard and garden, and these were regularly whitewashed in the spring of the year. The barnyard was enclosed with a tight, heavy board fence.

Blacksmith Shop

Years ago horses played a most important part in farming. In fact farming was unthinkable without a stable full of good working horses. Farms in the olden days were frequently rated according to the number of horses needed to operate them. This explains why farms were known as two, four, six, or eight horse farms. The blacksmith shop was an indispensable institution in every farming community. Without horses, there would have been little need for a blacksmith shop. Working horses needed shoes and farm machinery needed repairs, and the blacksmith shop was the place to meet these needs. One could hear the sound of the hammer on the anvil at a distance. A country boy of sixty and more years ago was accustomed to the odor of burning wood or the poisonous tang of anthracite coal gas, but the sweetish heavy smell of bituminous coal gas afforded a pleasing change for him. He was fascinated to see the blacksmith blow up his fire with a large bellows, stir the fire with his poker, and skillfully cover the coals over the

pieces of iron with which he was working. Who among the old people today doesn't recall the thrill and excitement of riding horses to the blacksmith shop! How the sparks flew everywhere as the white, hot metal was taken from the forge by means of tongs, and laid on the anvil, and hammered into the proper shape! A brush, consisting of a horse's tail securely tacked on the end of a handle, was used to chase the flies from the sides and legs of the horse when the shoeing process was in operation. This was the young boy's special task since he was usually selected to ride the horses to the blacksmith shop to be shod. The blacksmith shop, once so common, has been largely replaced for the most part by the automobile garage and the repair shop because of the introduction of the gasoline-driven tractor on many of the farms of today. The few blacksmith shops that still remain can amply take care of the few horses that are still used on the farm. In many cases, the farmers themselves today look after the shoeing of their own horses.

Selected Readings

Earle, Alice M., Home Life in Colonial Days

Stone and Fickett., Everyday Life in the Colonies

CHAPTER 12

Social Customs and Traditional Practices

The way of the world is to MAKE laws but to
FOLLOW customs. — Montaigne

Charivari or Bellings

When a couple got married a generation or two ago, it was the custom of their friends and neighbors to assemble at the homestead of the bride to make merry. Newly-married couples were serenaded. The greatest delight of the serenaders was to catch the wedding party together. Then a celebration followed. This merriment occurred usually on the night of the wedding or shortly thereafter. The young married couple were suddenly and unexpectedly greeted with the most deafening noise that could be produced by all kinds of noise-making devices such as dish-pans, horns, drums, whistles, dinner-bells, cow-bells, kettles, and even tin-cans. The size of the crowd was usually proportionate to the popularity of the couple. Whenever any young couple failed to receive this community recognition, it indicated a lack of social esteem for the couple. This burlesque serenade became known as a belling. In certain areas, it was perhaps better known by the name of charivari. The serenading usually came to a close when the young couple appeared before the neighborhood crowd and supplied it with a generous treat of apples, cider, nuts and smokes. Bellings were the generally accepted practices years ago but in these latter days, they have largely fallen into disuse. This old custom is seldom practiced any more.

Raffling Matches

Raffling matches were contests of chance or skill in which a number of persons paid the assumed value or more for the object put up as a stake and then determined by chance or skill which one of them was to become its sole owner. These matches were primarily games of chance, and were very common a half-century or more ago. They were exceedingly popular, and attracted unusually large crowds of people. It was quite common for several hundred people to be in attendance at one of these matches. These contests made an appeal to human nature that could scarcely be satisfied in any other way. People have always been willing to match their wits and skills

with those of their fellowmen in various kinds of contests. The adventurous and competitive spirit of man plus the probability to acquire much for little made hustling, shooting, and wheeling matches popular events. The price paid per chance depended on the money value of the object to be raffled, and the number of participants in the raffling match. Almost any number of persons could participate in the contest. Sometime the stakes represented an amount of money much above and beyond the real value of the object to be raffled. In such cases, second and third winners had to be declared to dispose of the excess money. The animals used in raffling matches were usually turkeys, barnyard fowls, and even cattle.

In the hustling matches, large pennies were used in numbers ranging from not less than five to almost any numbers. The participants took their chances on either heads or tails as they preferred. An ordinary hat was employed to shake the pennies. In case contestants made equal scores, elimination contests would then be in order. In shooting matches, a target was set up at a distance of about sixty paces from the marksmen. The contestants were required to shoot while lying flat on the ground. The man who hit the bull's eye, or came nearest to it, was declared the winner. Sometimes the turkey at stake was placed in a box with its head extended. The man who could shoot off the turkey's head was declared the winner. In wheeling matches, the contestants tried to push a wheelbarrow against a stake posted about sixty paces away. He was blindfolded and turned around a number of times for the purpose of confusing his sense of direction. He was timed. A stake was driven into the ground where he stopped when the time was called with the contestant's name attached. The winner was the one who succeeded in hitting the mark or came nearest to it.

Sleighing Parties

Probably none of the social activities proved more popular than the sleighing party. Sleighing parties usually began after New Year and continued during the cold winter months. A sleighing party proved to be an outstanding social event. Two prancing horses were hitched to a big bob sleigh, and the members of the fam-

ily were wrapped in buffalo robes and heavy blankets as protection against zero weather and seated on the straw-covered floor of the sled. When the party was made up of different age groups, two sleds were used because the young people preferred to travel by themselves. In most communities were found farmers who made a practice of hauling sleighing parties, and who kept a sled in readiness for such purposes. With the sleigh bells ringing through the frosty air, the journey to the neighbor's homestead was soon ended and the evening's entertainment begun. The children played games until they were fast asleep. The older folks gossiped about their neighbors, the weather and the crops, and told tales of the long ago. The refreshments of the evening were limited to nuts, pies, cakes, apples and cider. The means of conveyance during the spring, summer and autumn, were the spring-wagons, the buckboard, or the buggy. When the distance was not too great, they walked.

Often the destination of a sleighing party was a hotel in a town or village instead of the home of a friend or neighbor. The plans for such a party frequently had to be made in haste since not much dependence could be put upon the weather to insure good sleighing for days to come. A bob sled drawn by two or four horses and accommodating about eight to ten couples, proved the means of conveyance. The sled box was well-filled with straw and then covered with blankets to insure a certain warmth. The members of the party sat in the box on the straw and blanket, and covered themselves with a generous supply of buffalo robes and blankets. Frequently the boys and girls sat alternately on the straw along the sides of the box with their feet extending towards the center. When a farmer made it a business of hauling parties, he had a frame built on the top of the box supporting a row of seats on each side.

Each member of the party was usually equipped with a tin horn or a cow bell to make all the noise possible along the way, especially when passing a neighbor's home, or another sled, or through a village or town. At intervals the party would be singing "Jingle Bells", "Polly Wolly Doodle", "Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party", or "Yankee Doodle". It was not unusual to drive ten miles to a hotel. Such a trip required at least two hours, and made it necessary for the party to get started on the trip rather early

in the evening in order to reach their destination in time. Sometimes the snow on the road was melted or blown away in spots. This often made it necessary for the boys to get off the sled and walk that distance, particularly at a hill.

Supper was served at the hotel upon the arrival of the party. The customary meal consisted of a bounteous supply of ham and eggs, frequently supplemented by fresh sausage and fried potatoes for good measure. Then there were beans, dried corn, pickled beets, celery, cottage cheese, apple-butter, and jellies. The desert consisted of two or three varieties of pies and cakes. After supper, dancing and the playing of games took place in the parlor. Among the games were Blind Man's Buff, Post-office, and Charades. The dance was the old-fashioned country square dance and was presided over by a professional dance caller. The music for the dance was provided by an old parlor organ, a piano, a violin, guitar or banjo. Upon the approach of midnight, preparations got under way to make the journey home. Blankets were warmed up, and members bundled up in top-coats, muffs, scarfs, and galoshes. The midnight air was extremely frosty, the sled creaked as it swept over the road, the horses doubled their speed on the return trip, and the sleigh bells drowned out the merry laughter of the party. Around three o'clock the next morning the homeward journey was completed, and the individual members sought a few hours' sleep before beginning the work of another day.

Birthday Parties

Much emphasis was placed upon birthday parties, particularly when the person was greatly esteemed and already well-advanced in years. The entire neighborhood, and even the friends and relatives from great distances assembled. Special pains were always taken to prevent any information about the party from reaching the person whose birthday was to be celebrated. When the person was taken completely by surprise, it added greatly to the joy of the evening and to the success of the party. The guests were usually instructed to make their appearance at a certain specified time. When all had assembled, at a given signal, the person having the birthday was either "passed under the table" or lifted to the ceiling by a number of the more stalwart guests. This

was followed by a fine dinner. The evening was spent in telling stories and neighborhood gossip, playing games, and in talking about things of interest generally. At a late hour, after extending their best wishes and many happy returns of the day, the guests returned to their homes.

Neighborhood Visitings

The long winter evenings were spent in the home around a warm stove or before the open fire-place, piled high with blazing logs. One would expect such winter evenings of the long ago to have been dull and solitary. Quite the contrary, they were interesting and afforded much enjoyment. The members of the family were engaged in telling things that happened in the long ago, anecdotes about the experiences of former generations with the Indians, the latest gossip, and stories about ghosts, witches, and haunted houses. They ate nuts and apples, drank cider, and perchance someone read from a book or the Family Bible. The social activities of the neighborhood for the week were few in number and were restricted to a neighbor's visit, a birthday party, surprise party, a spelling bee, or an amateur theatrical exhibition in the district schoolhouse, or to a sleighing party. All these activities gave opportunity for people to get together and to have fun.

General Neighborliness

The Pennsylvania German people practiced mutual aid to a very great extent because they had to struggle to make a living and because they craved for some social life. This accounts for sewing and quilting parties, corn huskings, harvestings and threshings, barn raisings, and the building of roads in common. Neighbors helped one another in times of illness in cultivating the soil and harvesting the crops. In these periods of illness they nursed one another to health again. When barns were burned down by lightning, the neighbors aided in the cutting of the timber and in the building of a new structure again. During haying and harvesting they practised the custom of exchanging work. There was no hesitation to borrow or lend according as every man had need. In flittings, the household goods and farming implements were hauled gratuitously by neighbors without even the thought of pay. It was an act of helpfulness between neighbors that

was simply taken for granted. A neighborhood or community constituted an area of mutually helpful and co-operative living. The entire community was a neighborhood, and the neighborhood was neighborly.

Apple-parings and Apple-butter Boilings

Near-by neighbors met in the early evenings during the cider-making season in the late summer and fall to pare about two bushels of apples and to cut them into slices or "schnitz". Sometimes the apples were pared by hand and sometimes by a machine. These "schnitz" were then boiled with the cider into apple-butter. Sometimes the paring and the boiling took place the same evening. The boiling was done in a large cauldron or in large copper kettles. The thickening cider with the "schnitz" had to be stirred with a paddle to which was attached a handle approximately eight feet long. This long handle was necessary to protect the attendant from the great heat of the fire. The stirring had to be done almost continuously, especially in the latter part of the boiling, to prevent the contents from burning fast to the bottom of the kettle. Usually two large copper kettles were used for the purpose. These were suspended over a large open fire-place. The apple-butter was put into crocks with paper covers over them, and then stored away on the attic for the winter use.

Quilting Parties

In the days before our factory system had completely usurped the making of goods in the home, neighbors would assemble in some home to sew together rags cut into strips for use in weaving carpets. Neighbors would also assemble for the making of quilts for family use. House parties of this kind were quite common years ago. Every winter quilting parties were held and the old superstition of throwing a cat on the finished quilt continued to foretell who the next bride would be, as the cat was supposed to run to the fortunate one from the center of the handiwork. The spirit of mutual helpfulness prompted neighbors to assist in the making of things in common use in every home. There was also evident the desire for the folks to get together and to have a good time. A certain number of women of the immediate neighborhood would be invited to a home to do quilting. Upon the completion of the quilt, another such party would be held in another home, and so on until as many as a dozen

quilts would be finished in a single winter. No wages were paid for the quilting but the host always served a sumptuous meal for the guests. When quilting was done for an organization or wholly for commercial purposes, the quilters were paid, usually at the rate of a dollar per spool.

In quilting, the quilt was stretched out on a frame and firmly attached to each of its four sides. The edges of the quilt were sewed to pieces of strong muslin which were tacked to the rods of the frame. About a dozen women could work on the quilt at one time when it was open on all four sides. When the edges were completed as far in as the quilters could conveniently reach, then two sides of the quilt were detached from the side rods, and the quilt was rolled up on the one side in order to make available a new portion, and so on until the quilt was completed. Later a quilting frame was so constructed that the quilt could be rolled up on both sides.

Corn-huskings

Corn-huskings were parties conducted by some of the farmers, and were composed of people of the immediate neighborhood, particularly the young people, for the purpose of husking corn. These corn-huskings met the dual need of more social life for the people of the neighborhood, and at the same time provided the necessary help to make possible an earlier completion of the corn harvest. They were conducted in the cornfields during the day or more frequently during the early evening hours. The young man who found a red ear of corn was privileged to kiss the girl next to him providing he could catch her. The refreshments, an abundance of good food, the little delicacies, and the social features connected with it, made a corn-husking party a very enjoyable event.

Barn-raisings

The building of a new barn claimed the attention of the able-bodied men of the entire neighborhood. In some respects its erection could be appropriately designated a community enterprise. Men responded to the call for help with no thought of a day's wages but merely to perform a neighborly act, enjoy the social fellowship it afforded, and to relish the great feast prepared unstintingly by the women of the community. The frame work was all gotten ready by experienced carpenters before any attempt was made to put the parts together. On the day set aside for the barn-raising, all the work was

done by man-power. There were no hoists, tackles, derricks, or elevators to aid the workmen, only poles, cant-hooks, and ropes for strong, muscular men. The foreman directed all the moves necessary to get each piece in its particular place. It still remains a remarkable feat to this day how all the parts fitted together so well. On the morning of the day for the barn-raising, all of the parts appeared miscellaneously scattered about on the ground but in the evening of the same day, a new structure with all of its parts neatly fitted together had been erected.

The Country Square Dance

One of the more common means for community recreation and social diversion in Pennsylvania German communities was the old-fashioned square dance, or the country dance, sometimes known as the barn dance. These different names were applied because of the nature of the dance, and the place where the dance was held. When held in the home, the dance usually was the sequence to an "apple-schnitzing", a corn husking, or the center of attraction of a sleighing party during the winter season. The furniture was removed from one room or two adjoining rooms, and the carpets were rolled up preparatory to the dance. Usually invitations were extended to friends and neighbors but sometimes the invitation was general so that anybody was free to attend. The guests would arrive comparatively early in the evening either as individuals, in couples, or in groups bent upon an evening of merry-making.

The active participants in the dance consisted of a group of eight persons, four men and four women, known as a set and arranged on the dance-floor in the form of a square, hence the name square dance. The average country dance was limited to three or four sets because of the lack of space. When the dance was conducted in a barn or later in a public hall, there were often as many as ten to twenty sets depending on the size of the room. The music was furnished by a violinist commonly known as the "country fiddler". Frequently there were two fiddlers playing first and second, and accompanied whenever possible by an organist or pianist. Instead of the violin, the banjo or the guitar provided good substitutes. The central figure of the dance was known as the "caller". It was he who determined the form and the nature of the

dance by calling out the corresponding commands. Many different calls were employed, giving the dance a considerable degree of variety and complexity. It has been said that the square dance provided wholesome enjoyment with very little of the questionable practices of the modern dance. Considerable skill, good voice, and mental alertness were necessary to make a good caller, and there were few persons who really were efficient at it. The good fiddlers were much more common. Among the most popular dance pieces were "Turkey in the Straw", "Nellie Gray", "Birdie in the Cage", "Pop goes the Weasel", "Daddy and Mammy were Irish", "Golden Slippers", and "Coming Round the Mountain".

The dance in the home was usually free to anybody that cared to dance, but a voluntary contribution was expected from each participant to pay for the services of the fiddler. The usual charge for dancing was a dime per man for two dances, and free to the women. Later a fixed charge of fifty cents for the man and twenty-five cents for the woman was made to cover the entire evening. The caller was not paid at first but later he shared in the receipts with the fiddler. Sometimes a small contribution was made to the host and hostess as payment for the additional labor to clean the house and place again the carpet and furniture.

The Old Tavern

The old tavern was a social center for many of the men in the community. In those days women and children weren't allowed there at all. The tavern was found practically in every community, and was an awesome combination of perhaps some good and unquestionably much evil. The tavern was housed in a rather pretentious sort of a building as buildings went in those days. The old sign of the tavern was suspended on pivots that fastened in the middle and creaked dismally in the wind. The old taverns frequently bore rather pretentious names such as the "Black Horse Tavern" on the Isle of Que, the "Rising Sun" at Shamokin Dam, the "Jackson House" at Hummels Wharf, the "Washington House" in Middleburg, the "Valley House" at Kreamer, and the "National Hotel" at Port Trevorton. The tavern generally consisted of three main departments. The front room constituted the office and the place where the loafers were waiting to be treated. Here they smoked, gossiped, and occasion-

ally had the opportunity to quench their thirst. The second room was the bar-room. This consisted of a counter, sundry glasses, bottles, and wooden kegs with faucets. Here the drinking took place, and frequently proved to be the scene of drunken brawls. In the third department were found the kitchen and dining rooms where the most sumptuous meals were served for twenty-five cents. Tipping the waitress was then unknown. The parlor and bed-rooms were meticulously kept by careful housemaids under the direct supervision of the landlady herself. For the most part this apartment was a cozy and satisfying place. It was probably the nearest approach to a home that the traveler and wayfarer could find anywhere on his journey.

The town drunk deserves a passing notice in his relation to the old tavern. Every community had at least one drunk. He was recognized by everybody and was undoubtedly the tavern's greatest liability. Everybody knew him, but no one respected him. Probably he deserved to be pitied rather than criticized. Whether his persistent drunkenness was the cause or the effect of other factors, no one was in a position to say. He probably very seldom changed his clothes and only at long intervals slept in a bed. When he was drunk, he was a perfect nuisance; when he was sober, he was by the way of being a gentleman inasmuch as he was given to tipping his hat to the ladies. He had more than an average education. He kept himself informed with the daily news, and could hold his own in any discussion or conversation. When drunk, he was an entirely different personality in speech and conduct. He was probably an excellent example of a dual personality by subversion. At such times he was loud, boastful, abusive, profane, and often obscene. Women and children passed him by on the other side of the street. The sum of his life was that these exceptions became the habit of his life. As he slipped deeper and deeper into the mire of drunkenness, he fell correspondingly lower in the public esteem. In course of time, he became some sort of pariah, a public outcast, whom everybody knew but nobody respected. The town drunk was a living problem whose only answer was the fact that after all "wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging". It was a matter of great sadness to realize that probably he was a person more to be pitied than condemned. It must be said in his behalf that what he was in his life undoubtedly was not entirely of his own making.

Common Meeting Places

Every community had one or more places notoriously known as loafing places. If certain residents could not be located at one place, they were sure to be found at the other place. Practically every loafing place had what was popularly known as the "liars' bench". Its occupants arrived usually about sundown. They spent the evening smoking, chewing and spitting tobacco, while the fireflies sparkled through the streets and gardens. Here were exchanged their neighborhood gossip, and the tales of great achievement of earlier days were related. The one who could tell the "tallest" story proved to be the most popular in the group. The expectant mother was duly slated, the new-born were catalogued and duly named, the sick reported, and the dead given the passing tribute. Once in a great while, news from the outside world filtered through by means of the postman and newspaper. When the last bit of gossip had been relayed and the thrill of it dulled from repetition, one by one they adjourned, often as late as ten o'clock.

Almost every place where the people of the community congregated, be it the general store, the post-office, or the cobbler shop, that place became a social center for them, in a very real sense of the term. This was inevitable since good roads were non-existent and the modes of conveyance were greatly limited. People didn't possess those regular contacts so common today. When the people got together at the general store, the post-office, the blacksmith shop, the apothecary shop, the railroad station, the barber shop, the voting place, or the cobbler shop, the social aspect of life received much more than its proportionate share of their time. Talking things over with friends and strangers alike, retailing the most recent gossip, listening to the latest news, talking about the weather and the crops, and the affairs of family life constituted the large bulk of the conversation. Farmers tarried after the church services on Sundays to get information about one another's crops, to familiarize themselves with the doings of the neighborhood, and perchance to make arrangements for help during haying and harvesting or threshing.

The social contacts of the people generally throughout the rural communities were so infrequent that they proved a novelty, and when they occurred they were greatly enjoyed by all. There was a felt social need and

it had to be met in some way. People spared no pains to gratify it. Visiting on holidays and Sunday afternoons was done whenever the opportunity afforded itself. They knew that life was much more satisfying when they could experience the common lot. As David Hume puts it in his essay, "A Treatise on Human Nature", "Every pleasure in life languishes, and every pain becomes more cruel when experienced apart from the company of others. Let all the powers serve one, and yet that one will be unhappy and discontented until he finds some other one with whom he can share life's joys and sorrows". Or as George Sand puts it—"I don't mind becoming old but I dread becoming old all alone."

Cakewalk

Cakewalks, festivals, and picnics, provided much of the social recreation and amusement for the people of the community. The name "cakewalk" provides a fairly adequate general idea of the nature of the social activity. There was a good-sized area of ground encircled by a strong rope supported by stakes. Persons stationed at uniform distances inside the rope received a small American flag from the passing couple, and then presented this flag to the next succeeding couple that came along. The couples marched on the outside of the rope but in proximity with the rope. There was only one flag for the contest although it was desirable to have as many couples walking as could be conveniently accommodated. The more couples there were, the greater income for each cake placed in competition. Each competitor had to possess a ticket for which payment of a dime was exacted. Sometimes the use of tickets was dispensed with and each couple was asked to make the payment in cash at the time the promenade started.

These couples were kept marching around the circle for five minutes. While this marching and flag-passing were going on, the band was playing some favorite pieces. When the five minutes were up, a few sharp knocks on the bass drum constituted the signal for the band to cease playing. Whoever had the flag at that moment won the cake that was put up as a prize. This meant that the management probably had collected several dollars from the marchers, and the winner won the cake by sheer luck and the payment of a dime. The duration of a cakewalk was determined by the number of cakes that were to be disposed of. Usually the whole affair ended about eleven

or twelve o'clock. The band received five dollars for its services, and its members usually were provided by the successful competitors with all the cake they cared to eat that evening.

Frequently the cakewalk was held under the auspices of a Sunday School. In that case the cakes were baked by the members and then donated to the Sunday School for the benefit of the cakewalk. Sometimes a cake was chanced off by the selling of tickets, and the holder of the lucky ticket received the cake. The lucky ticket was determined by a drawing from a hat.

At cakewalks, festivals and picnics, a favorite game of the young men and women was known as ring-tag. A large number of young men and women with hands joined formed a circle. This circle would be kept rotating while the persons were singing "There was a Farmer had a Dog", and "Bingo was his name, Sir". At a certain signal, partners were exchanged and the privilege accorded of kissing the new partner. At other times one of the group would move around the outside of the circle and pat on the back a desired partner who would then chase him or her until caught, and then a kiss was expected.

The Circus

Fifty years ago the circus over-shadowed almost every other event in the life of the community. It claimed the attention of the people for weeks prior to its occurrence. The announcement of its coming was heralded by the local newspapers, by the posting of bills in stores, hotels, and at cross-roads, and by the distribution of hand-bills throughout the rural communities by a man traveling about with horse and buggy. No matter how urgent the farm work may have been, people still found time to attend the circus. They traveled in buggies, carriages, spring-wagons, bicycles, afoot, and on horseback. The circus presented features of human and animal life that proved novel and fascinating to say the least, and the people generally were much interested.

The shows that were most common in the community were Barnum & Forepaugh, Barnum & Bailey, Walter L. Main, and Sells Brothers. One of them came around practically every year either in Middleburg, Selinsgrove, or Sunbury. One of the most attractive features of the whole show was the street parade in the forenoon. The streets were lined with people eagerly watching every as-

pect of the demonstration. The show was conducted in the afternoon and usually lasted about three hours. It was then followed by another show at night. The general admission was fifty cents with extra fees for the special attractions such as the snake charmers, trained animal exhibitions, human and animal monstrosities, magicians, the palmist, the fat lady, and the midgets.

The elephants, camels, zebras, giraffes, and the monkeys afforded much interest for the country boys and girls. Perhaps they proved the main attraction. They had read about these animals in their school books and heard other people talk about them, and now they were privileged to see them. Men standing on the backs of horses, holding the lines, and cracking the whips, raced around the circus ring; the acrobats leaping fearlessly from one trapeze to the next; the ever-present clowns performing with their queer antics and humorous remarks; the noisy peanut and soda-pop venders continually moving about from tier to tier and from section to section in the seating portions of the big tent; and the bands playing at intervals all types of music—all these and many more afforded a never-to-be-forgotten spectacle to a country boy.

Indian Patent Medicine Shows

Semi-annually, or at least annually, the local community would be visited by a patent medicine show. It proved to be the center of interest and attracted an unusually large crowd of people. Its evening program provided something of interest for men, women, and children. The social life of the people was limited and a medicine show aroused much more than its proportionate share of social contacts. The show was extensively and effectively advertised, and the people seeking entertainment with no ailments whatever or those with real or imaginary ailments in the hope of getting relief flocked to the show. The show tent was pitched in some vacant lot in the town or village, leased, perhaps for a bottle of medicine or a box of pills, or perhaps given free as a contribution to community welfare. While selling medicine was the primary purpose of the show, there were always enough preliminaries such as vocal and instrumental music, sleight-of-hand performances, and ventriloquistic tricks for the amusement of everybody. These shows usually had pretentious names such as the Rolling Thunder Medicine Show or the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Show.

The center of attraction of the show, however, was the "Indian Doctor" with his gaudy dress, spectacular appearance, and fascinating voice laudatory of the virtues of his wares. His medicines were intended to be cure-alls for all ailments and frequently were accepted in that way. Under his hypnotic spell, the people eagerly bought their twenty-five cent or forty-nine cent bottle in the hope that now they would soon become well again. No doubt many of them became well, perhaps in spite of the medicine rather than because of it, because of the efficacy of suggestion in effecting the necessary transformation in their mental attitudes. The show was free for everybody, conducted in the evening during the summer months, and usually lasted for a full week at a time. The Middleburg Post of May 21, 1886, has the following comment:

The Indian Medicine man was on our streets several evenings this week with his specific remedies for all aches and pains. He dealt out free medicines, and it was astonishing to see how many of our citizens get sick all on a sudden when they see a bottle of medicine.

Public Sales or Auctions

An auction may be described as a public sale of all kinds of property where successively increased bids are made on the property, which finally sold to the highest bidder. Auctions were common throughout the county several generations ago and are so today. They were usually held in the early spring when the farmers either retired from farming and disposed of their property or when they moved from one farm to another in the hope of bettering their situation. The beginning of April was usually known as "flitting time". Farmers found this time most convenient to begin the cultivation of the soil and to put out their crops.

Auctions were probably just as much social occasions as they were business enterprises in the community. They were attended by most of the people for miles around, nor was the attendance restricted to the men and boys. The women invariably attended in large numbers. Some people came to get bargains in the purchase of horses, cows, pigs, farming implements, and household goods; others came for the social life afforded by the meeting of friends and neighbors; still others found the auctioneer their chief attraction and came to admire his raucous cries and witty remarks as he disposed of the different kinds of property to the highest bidder. A few

came seeking the purchase of antiques such as an old kerosene lamp, an old dough tray, a cradle of the "old Dutch" style, old-fashioned beds and bureaus, corner cupboards, a six-legged cherry drop-leaf table, colored dishes, old glassware, and mustard-bowls shaped like chickens or steamboats. Collectors of relics were constantly on the look-out for treasures for the historical society museum.

Nor were these auctions solely for the benefit of the adults. It was the custom for the youngsters to take a day off from school to enjoy a sale. The games in a nearby lot and the wrestling matches on the hay-mow had their fascinations. Not the least interesting was the itinerant huckster with his long table loaded with candies, pop-corn, peanuts, pretzels, and oyster-stews.

Ground Hog Day

Ground Hog Day had great significance for the Pennsylvania German people over a period of many years. The occasion was observed quite generally by them on the fortieth day after Christmas. Since that date was regarded as the middle of the winter season, the people began to look for hopeful signs of the coming of spring weather. According to the superstition, if the ground hog saw his shadow on this day, he would be so startled at the sight that he would dash back into his ground hole and thus bring about six weeks more of winter weather; and if he failed to see his shadow, then spring weather might be just around the corner. The belief evidently was based on the supposition that hibernating animals (wood chuck, badgers, bears) are able to indicate the signs of the weather with much more accuracy than can human beings.

Halloween

Halloween was widely celebrated throughout the county on the last day of October. The pumpkin, the black cat, and pictures of witches riding on broomsticks were everywhere in evidence during the period of celebration. The pumpkin symbolized the harvest, and the black cat was regarded as the traditional companion of witches. A Jack-o'-lantern was every boy's delight. It was made out of a large pumpkin so prepared that it would show in illumination the features of a human face. The custom was to have a ghost party where the members wore masks or false faces. Nuts, cider, apples, and pump-

kin pie served as the refreshments. Telling fortunes was a common practice and afforded much amusement. During the Halloween celebration, the neighborhood had a tendency to tolerate the removal of gates, boardwalks, doorsteps, porches, chairs, vehicles, and other useful articles by the celebrants. In most cases the articles taken were recovered by their owners but usually at considerable inconvenience and labor. A vicious custom consisted of the writing with chalk on pavements, soaping windows, ringing door-bells and playing other pranks that frequently tended to be destructive. For the most part these activities were engaged in as a matter of innocent frivolity, but also at times simply to annoy people, particularly elderly couples. In some of the towns the celebration partook the nature of a street parade by the grotesquely-arrayed merrymakers and culminated in a huge bon-fire in some vacant lot.

Easter Season Celebrations

No Easter season passed by without the children having their full share of variegated-colored, hard-boiled eggs. The most common colors of these eggs were blue, green, and yellow. The egg was regarded as symbolic of germinating fertility at a season of the year when all nature burst forth into newness of life. Ascension Day was set aside as the day to go fishing in streams and creeks. In those days fishing licenses were not required and game wardens were unheard of. The first day of April was generally regarded as April Fool's Day. It was a day set aside for the playing of practical jokes on friends and neighbors by sending them on a fool's errand. Shrove Tuesday occurs the day before Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), on which day the people are supposed to make confession in preparation for the Lenten season. Since Easter is a movable festival, Shrove Tuesday doesn't occur on the same day each succeeding year. Apart from its religious significance, the Pennsylvania German housewives had the custom of baking large quantities of doughnuts and the school pupils celebrated the day by "penning out the teacher" whenever possible in order to get a holiday.

Christmas and New Year Celebrations

Christmas with its Santa Claus or Belsnickel always had a special fascination for the children.. They were eager to hang up their stockings fully believing that Bel-

snickel would come down the chimney with those candies and toys for which they had been wishing. There was a Christmas tree in every home. Christmas Day was usually spent in visiting friends and neighbors and in the exchange of gifts. The last night of the old year and the first day of the New Year had special significance. Watch night, the ringing of bells, and a mummers' parade were always observed.

Sunday School Picnics

It appears that Sunday School picnics in Snyder County began during the first decade immediately following the close of the Civil War. For many years these occasions were known by the name of Sunday School celebrations since the name picnic appeared to be inconsistent with their nature and purpose. Because they were sponsored by the Sunday School, and because the day's activities took on more and more of the secular, they became known as Sunday School picnics. Some of the picnics were called by the name of the place where they were held. In a general way, the program of these picnics was very similar. Sometimes several Sunday Schools combined to hold a joint or union picnic. Much labor was done to prepare for the picnic. The grove had to be cleaned, elaborate decorations put up, and a long table constructed for the picnic dinner. The women devoted several days in preparation for the picnic dinner.

Not only were these picnics attended by the local Sunday school people but by people from far and near, and from every vocation in life. They came afoot, in buggy, carriage, buck board, two-wheeled surrey, spring-wagon, farm-wagon, and by bicycle. So popular were these picnics that mud and ankle-deep dust proved in no way a deterrent. The picnic season was a great occasion to meet old friends or to parade a new dress, shoes or hats. Children anticipated picnic day with great joy. The refreshment stand provided a great opportunity for them to buy with their pennies and nickels, peanuts, candy, lemonade, or ice-cream. The stand at first was in charge of some merchant from a distance to whom a concession was granted; later the Sunday School conducted its own stand primarily as a means of raising money for the payment of the services of the band and for other expenses.

The morning program consisted of devotions, hymn-

singing, solos and duets, band music, and addresses by several popular speakers. The speakers usually were clergymen, the county superintendent of schools, school men, and local politicians. These addresses were usually of a popular nature, contained many stories, and provided much entertainment for the audience. After the morning program, the people had their picnic dinner in the grove. This dinner partook the nature of a real feast consisting of chicken, pies, cakes, and the best things the community and the season could afford. The food was prepared in the homes, and brought to the grove by the parents and served in common on a long table to anybody that was hungry. The picnic was a real community enterprise. In the afternoon the crowd usually divided itself into three groups. The older people assembled around the grand stand to listen to the band concert or sat on benches to talk about their crops; the young people indulged in various games and sports; and the children strolled about the woods and took in all the sights.

The following constitutes the usual press comment about a Sunday School picnic:

The Sabbath School celebration at Smithgrove (Kreamer) last Saturday was a very pleasant affair. Four schools met at the church at Smithgrove about ten o'clock when the procession was formed and marched to the island. Addresses were delivered by Revs. Erlenmeyer, Aurand, Orwig, and Miller. Music was provided by the Middleburg and New Berlin bands. The order was good and everything passed off to the entire satisfaction of all present. Middleburg Post, August 24, 1871.

Practically every Sunday School in the county had an annual picnic of its own or one jointly with some other Sunday Schools. At Troxelville all the Sunday Schools united for their annual picnic; Middleburg and Paxtonville joined in their picnic; Beaver Springs, Salem, Kratzerville, Fremont, Grubb's Church, Erdley's, Kreamer and Globe Mills, Verdilla, Port Trevorton, and Richfield, were noted picnic places. It appears that Sunday School picnics reached their greatest popularity in the last decade of the nineteenth century and in the first decade of the twentieth century. It was then that amusements parks began to be opened, the automobile came into common use, new forms of amusement made their appearance, moving-picture houses began to operate, and the Sunday School picnic waned in popularity. Today very few picnics are left, and these have lost much of their original character, spirit and purpose.

Family Reunions

A family reunion usually meant a social gathering of the members of one and the same family after having been separated from one another over a given period of time. Family reunions have been quite common among the Pennsylvania German people. Their characteristics reveal a tendency toward clannishness probably because of their dialect, customs, traditions, and peculiar folkways. Their families usually have been large, they have persisted to live mostly in the same communities, and they have succeeded in maintaining their family ties and relationships. Originally these family reunions were held at the paternal homestead, but as the attendance increased, they were transferred to a neighboring grove, or to Rolling Green Park, or to the Snyder-Middleswarth State Park.

The period for family reunions was the closing decade of the nineteenth century and the opening decades of the twentieth Century. From a small reunion of the immediate members of the family, they have reached out to include different families brought together through intermarriage and living in widely-scattered areas, until the number in attendance reached into the thousands. For the most part family reunions were annual affairs held on a Sunday or Wednesday, during the summer months. A family reunion constituted an all-day affair. The program was composed of addresses by members of the family or by outstanding imported speakers who extolled the virtues of the family, of selections by the family musicians, the annual report of the family historian, the exhibit of the family tree with the needed explanation for each member to be able to trace his own ancestral line, music by band or orchestra, and games, contests, and sports for the younger members of the family. The older members usually confined their activities to friendly chats concerning crops, the latest gossip, forming new friendships and renewing old ones. Some of the families that were accustomed to hold reunions over these years have been the Hilbish's, Herrold's, Aucker's, Shirk's, Shellenberger's, Herman's, Erdley's, Troxel's, Hassinger's, Graybill's, Fisher's, Burn's, Frock's, Smith's, Rowe's, Sanders', Crouse's, Dunkelberger's, Fetterolf's, Newman's, and many others.

Superstitions

Snyder County has always been thoroughly Pennsyl-

vania German in practically everything including the dialect, ways of living, and belief in peculiar practices and superstitions. In many respects these Pennsylvania Germans have been peculiarly superstitious. Many of our forefathers persisted in planting seeds, digging in posts, and shingling roofs according to the signs of the moon, and in beginning important undertakings only on certain days. Who among them did not believe in the efficacy of the four-leafed clover or the good luck of the posted horse-shoe? No good Pennsylvania German would think of getting married on a Monday nor of starting out on a honeymoon on a Friday. Who among them didn't regret the spilling of salt or the breaking of a mirror? Their beliefs and superstitions were a part of their every-day life, and were practised without even raising any doubt about them. Many of the superstitions so common several generations ago are now all but forgotten or are no longer accepted as having any foundation at all. The influence of secondary education in the county, the spread of scientific knowledge, and the contacts with other people through travel and communication are responsible for the change.

Anything like an exhaustive list of the traditional superstitions and beliefs prevalent in the county at one time or another is impossible as well as impractical. Certain ones are mentioned simply to show their nature and general trend. Stepping over a baby sitting or lying on the floor will stop its growth. To cure a baby that is liver-grown, pass it three times around the leg of a table. To cure a wound caused by a rusty nail, rub the wound with a potato peeling, and then feed the peeling to a cow or keep the rusty nail in the dry, and the wound will heal. The last person to leave the house at a funeral will be the first one to die. A person will take away the owner's luck when he leaves the home by another door. The howling of a dog near a window is a sign of impending death in the family. The blossoming of a fruit-tree in the fall of the year is a sure sign of death in the owner's family. A black cat coming to live in a new home is a sign of good luck, but a black cat crossing one's path is a sign of bad luck. It was considered ill-luck to use the first bucket of water drawn from a well or pump, and therefore it was usually poured away. The really scientific reason was a matter of sanitation and cleanliness so far as the pump and bucket were concerned. On the way home from the pump with a bucket of water, if the carrier found his path crossed by a black cat, it was taken as a sign that

the bucket of water was now hexed, and of course there was nothing else to do but pour it away and return to the pump for another bucketful. Accidentally putting on a garment inside out and then keeping it on that way is a sure sign that the person will receive a gift. Preserve your wedding clothes and some day you will become rich. To cause cider to turn into vinegar, speak the names of the three most sour-tempered women of the neighborhood into the bung-hole. The last Friday of the month will determine the average weather for the month following. To remove freckles, get up before dawn on May 1, and without speaking to anyone, wash the face with the dew on the grass, then slap the hands that then supposedly contain the face freckles upon another part of the body that will not show freckles when dressed. The freckles will then appear on the body-parts slapped, and talking while doing all this breaks the magic spell. Putting the milk-tooth into the cranny of a wall and wishing sincerely for a new tooth invariably will bring the desired results. Walking under a ladder means bad luck. Picking up a pin means good luck. Always carry a baby upstairs before carrying it down so that it will become high-minded. Couples who get married in the full of the moon will have a happy married life and many children.

In spite of our knowledge of the sciences, some superstitions still continue. Evidently things that persist in their existence have a reason for their existence. Probably there is a scientific basis for their survival. Walking under a ladder might spell disaster especially when the ladder should happen to fall on the person. Picking up a pin is certainly a neat and thrifty habit for any person to form. Wiping the hex off the wash line is after all simply good housekeeping, for otherwise the wash would be soiled by the dirty wash line. Spilling salt was considered a sign of bad luck and breaking a mirror was accepted as a foreshadow of death in the family when in reality the scarcity and high costs of these household articles were simply disguised admonitions to family members to exercise greater care in their use. Cobwebs placed over a wound will stop bleeding, but so will anything else that tends to impede the natural process of blood circulation. A swallow of whiskey will cause an increase in the flow of the saliva but so will the chewing of so inert a substance as a tooth-pick. Popular thinking tends to attribute certain outcomes to some particular characteristic when the

same thing may be of general occurrence. There is much wishful thinking even in the most intelligent people.

Hexing and Pow-wowing

A generation or two ago there was scarcely a town or village in the county where some one did not believe in hexing and pow-wowing. Pow-wowing is a healing art while hexing is casting a curse or a spell upon some animal, person or thing. Sometimes the former was employed as an antidote for the latter. Pow-wowing was practiced by an individual believed to possess supernatural powers. It was believed that many things could be cured by means of gestures, stroking the afflicted portion with the hands, portions of teas made from plants found in the near-by woods, and the repetition of Bible verses. Pow-wowing is a process of incantation. The pow-wow was used by people who thought themselves "verrickt" or mentally perturbed by some other person, by married folks who failed to get along with each other, by people who felt their animals or property had been verhexed, and by those who had a disease or some affliction, the cure for which medical knowledge and skill appeared to be powerless. This business of "vehexen" has been productive of great excitement in certain communities. Some people seem to believe it is rather easy to cast a spell upon someone else, especially when the person has done something to injure them. There were always ways to prevent the hex from preventing a spell. Cows are believed to be verhexed when they lose their cud, and about the only way to undo the spell and restore the appetite, is to enter a neighbor's house through the back door, steal a piece of bread, and without speaking a word to anybody either in going or coming, feed it to the cows, and then they will begin eating again.

Snyder County has never had a hex trial in its courts although some other counties have gained considerable notoriety because of them. Hexing and pow-wowing have been believed in at times by many other people not Pennsylvania Germans, but the Pennsylvania Germans have persisted in their beliefs, and for that reason, these so-called curative and cursing powers have become particularly identified with this class of people. The Pennsylvania Germans have always been a deeply religious people; they also have been an imaginative and superstitious people. In periods of illness or great misfortune, it was natural for them to resort to the strange and mysterious for relief.

Concoctions made from different kinds of plants, together with the massage of the afflicted parts, the repetition of Scripture verses, coupled with great faith constituted the pow-wower's technique. Human nature is a strange thing, but when given a chance, assisted by material substances and by a wholesome mental attitude, it will often take excellent care of itself during periods of distress and sickness.

When our forefathers journeyed from the southeastern portions of the Province to the territory now known as Snyder County, they brought with them many superstitions and beliefs but they did not bring along the so-called hex signs painted on the barns. Nevertheless the same type of signs may be found on the old coverlets that were quite common in this area during the first half of the nineteenth century. In our county, these coverlets are known by the name of "schnee debbich", named after Joseph Schnee, one of the most successful weavers in this part of the country. Joseph Schnee resided in Freeburg and operated his weaving plant at that place. A few of his coverlets are still in existence, dated 1832 and 1844. Another weaver of coverlets was John Hamilton of Penn Township. Both weavers used the tulip, the eight-pointed star, the crow's foot, and other signs on their coverlets. Probably all these signs were more for decorative purposes than preventives of hexing. In our county daughters had "hope chests" usually decorated with their initials, and the date of the chest was stated, but in the southeastern counties they were known as "dowery chests" and were decorated with the usually so-called hex signs.

The First and Last Hexing Party in the County

It is reported that in 1825 the area now known as Snyder County had a hexing episode in Beaver Township. The hexing occurred in a building first used as a school-house but later served as a private dwelling, and thus became known as the "spook house". The house was destroyed by fire in 1866. It appeared that a certain family, consisting of husband, wife, and two daughters, lived in the house and believed themselves bewitched or verhexed, by some man in the same neighborhood. It was reported that fresh milk in the springhouse turned sour within a few hours, that tables and kitchen furniture moved automatically about the house, and that an itinerant peddler had his hat blown off his head within a few minutes after he had entered the home. Curiosity drove

many people to the home to find out what it was all about. Magical and mystical rites were performed and scripture texts were fastened to doors and windows in the hope of driving out the hex, but the escapades continued. Finally, a party of young men from New Berlin decided to visit the scene for the purpose of making a complete investigation. While the supposed hex was performing, a member of the visiting party arrayed himself in a strange costume, smeared his face with phosphorous, yelled horribly, and then with all lights extinguished, put on a show of his own. He chased the terrified occupants about the house until it became perfectly evident to all that the entire setup was a hoax, and a complete confession followed. And so ended the first and the last hexing party in Snyder County.

The Pawling Farm Revelation

In March, 1939, a way of pow-wowing was uncovered on the farm of former Emanuel E. Pawling, Pawling Station. The discovery was made when an old oak tree was felled. Judging from the appearance of the trunk, the tree must have been about 300 years old and the auger holes made at least 150 years ago. In the hollow trunk were found several pieces of cured hard wood, human hair, and some goose feathers, all in an excellent state of preservation. These were considered the necessary materials for the practice of hexing and pow-wowing. In order to cure the fits of a child, the pow-wower sharpened his auger by the light of the setting sun, and then bored holes in the oak tree at the height of the child's head. The wood used to make the containers for the hair and feathers was cured by charcoal. The following morning at sunrise, the suffering child was taken unwashed and unfed to the tree where it was placed with its back against the tree trunk. The child's hair was wound around a small piece of wood and the feathers of a goose placed in the containers. These pieces were evidently then driven into the auger holes. The louder the child cried, the better and surer the cure. With the rising sun, the fits were supposed to be wafted away and never to return.

Hexing in Snyder County was never as popular as was the healing art of pow-wowing. Pow-wowing is still firmly believed in and practised by many of the older people of the county. There are other people who declare they don't believe in it, and still confess they are puzzled to give any other explanation for the cure. As an art its

treatment is harmless if not helpful. It is akin to faith cures since the patient was always told he had to believe in it in order to get help from it. No doubt many people were helped probably not so much by it but because of it. People tend to count the hits and forget the misses. Pow-wowing is just one of a number of things that in some way and for some reason have survived to the present day.

The Almanac in Pennsylvania German Homes

It is easy to understand why people were disposed to believe that the sun, moon, and stars wielded an influence upon the earth and upon its plant and animal life as well as upon human beings. The people very early in history knew that heat, light, and rain came from the heavens above to make the earth habitable and productive. They believed the heavenly bodies were ruling the course of human destiny, determining the fate of the people and the outcomes of their achievements. In this way the almanac came into existence as a record of what man professed to believe and of what he thought about the influence of the heavenly bodies that made up the universe. The almanac in course of time became a composite of knowledge, history, astronomical facts, tradition, superstition, and folklore. It provided not alone the calendar proper but weather predictions a year in advance, information about farming and gardening, home remedies, information about the best time to plant, recipes for baking, humorous stories, short stories, anecdotes and poems. In fact the almanac was regarded as an indispensable hand-book in every household during the nineteenth century. The Pennsylvania German people felt they simply couldn't get along without it. They read the almanac just about as much as they read the Bible and Psalter. The persistency of the beliefs in the signs and the weather forecasts shows the tremendous influence the early almanac must have had on the lives of the people. Probably the influence of the almanac was next to that of oral tradition. The early almanacs were usually printed in the German language.

Not all Pennsylvania Germans accepted the almanac signs with equal seriousness. In fact there were some who wholly disregarded them while others followed their instructions more or less explicitly even though they professed they didn't believe in them. Some followed scrupulously only certain signs and wholly disregarded all the rest. Sometimes they seemed confounded as to the prop-

er course to pursue. When the sign was right, then the ground was not ready for planting being either too wet or too dry; and when the ground was right, then the sign was all wrong. No wonder "confusion worse confounded reigned" at times in their minds. When any important undertaking was begun, the devoted consulted the almanac to discover whether the up-sign or the down-sign of the moon prevailed. When the horns of the moon were up, it was thought the moon had an upward force, and when down, a downward force. This information was taken into account when shingling a roof, placing fence posts in the ground and in building board-walks. Beans should be planted in the up-sign to make them climb up the poles, otherwise they would creep on the ground. Onions were not thought to stay in the ground when planted in the up-sign. Clover-seed should be sown in the down-sign so that the seeds would strike root more readily and more deeply. Potatoes should be planted in the new moon for they must be completely underground, while other vegetables that ripen above the ground should be planted at least near the time of the full moon. Farmers were reluctant to put corn into the crib, thresh grain, or cure meat "im Abnemmede" (decrease of the moon) because of the possibility of much shrinkage of the product. It was believed that attempts at fishing in the light of the moon tended to be unsuccessful. It was considered unfortunate to move household goods in the down-sign of the moon.

It was also considered very important to know through what sign of the zodiac the moon was passing at any particular time to determine the proper time for planting. Strange to say, there often existed differences in interpretations about the significance of these zodiacal signs. For example, some felt that corn should be planted in the sign of Gemini (twins) to insure two ears of corn on the stalk, while others felt the corn should be planted in the sign Leo (lion) to insure the biggest ears of corn. The sign Libra (scales) was a favorable sign for planting tomatoes because then they would be large and heavy. Onions planted in the sign Sagittarius (archer) tended to shoot or run to seed. When the housewife wished to have a good crop of cucumbers, she had to plant her seed in the sign Pisces (fish). While this was a good time for cucumbers, it was a poor time to make sauerkraut since it then tended to become slippery and slimy. Chicks hatched in the sign of the Ram were disposed to be patient. The best time to cut hair was in the sign Leo and in the in-

crease of the moon in order to have the hair become curly.

The almanac was consulted with respect to the weather on important days. The appearance of an ice-box, a snow-ball, or a Herschel was supposed to foreshadow cold weather on that day or at least within a week. The down-sign of the moon indicated rain. When the handle of the Big Dipper was up, it was supposed to foretell rain. When swallows flew high, then fair weather could be expected, but when they flew low, then rain was likely to occur. Many other examples of the meaning of weather signs could be given, but these are sufficient to show the general trend of conditions.

The passing of the last century marked a sharp decadence in the beliefs of the people in the significance of these signs of the almanac. The present generation pays little attention to almanac weather prognostications such as the phases of the moon and the signs of the zodiac as guides in important undertakings, and to the superstitions of the past generations. This new generation, exposed to the teachings of the physical and biological sciences in the secondary schools and colleges, has very largely repudiated these traditional beliefs and practices of former generations. When the farmers in the opening years of the present century received the instructions at the Farmers' Institutes and in Agricultural Extension and Home Economics Courses, they soon were no longer in a mood to pay much attention to the signs of the almanac as guides in their field and household work. Only those traditional beliefs and practices that have some scientific basis or for which more rational explanations may be given have survived the test of time and the scientific knowledge of the present day.

The Custom of Using Liquor in Haying and Harvesting

A well-established community custom that still persisted in the farming sections of the county at the turn of the century was the prevalent use of liquor during the haying and harvesting seasons. Many farmers believed several jugs of whiskey were the indispensable to get their crops away. This was in a day when the people generally accepted the belief that liquor was a stimulant and hence a necessity among the hard-working farmers of the county. Whiskey was an almost universally-used beverage among the laboring people. Other groups likewise consumed large quantities of liquor as a matter of luxury. Even some of the clergy were not free from its use. Liquor

was very extensively consumed on occasions of great merriment, at celebrations, and when prolonged arduous tasks had to be done. In this way it became a great community evil. In haying and harvesting days it became even a greater evil than ever. The working men frequently became intoxicated and had to spend much time in fence corners when they should have been cradling wheat. It was not uncommon for some of the heavy drinkers to become embroiled in drunken brawls, and at times a general fight ensued.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, a change of sentiment for the better occurred with respect to the use of liquor. To John App (1793-1876) belongs much of the credit for breaking up this pernicious community custom in the eastern portion of Snyder County. He greatly deplored this matter of drinking at all times but especially during the haying and harvesting seasons on his two farms. He saw that whiskey didn't make for working efficiency, and he dreaded the thought of his own workmen and associates being drunkards at a time when their services were most in demand. He saw the degrading influence of the drink habit and determined to effect a reformation. He accomplished his purpose by the use of example and precept in his own life. His first move was to get rid of his own distillery on his own farm. He determined that no whiskey should be used any more in his hay and harvest fields. He courageously announced his decision in the neighborhood that from that time on his crops had to be garnered without the use of whiskey. This was a daring and dangerous stand to take at the time. Without the aid of machinery, a farmer was wholly dependent on the laboring people of the community to reap and store the farm crops. Great opposition immediately developed toward such an innovation. The men who formerly did his work now declared they would no longer work for him. It is said that even his own pastor, the Rev. J. P. Schindel, endeavored to dissuade him from following such a rash and unpopular course. In reply, John App declared rather than have his own harvest hands use whiskey, he would search a distance of forty miles to find harvest hands that would work without whiskey. Undaunted and encouraged by his own convictions that drinking liquor was an evil, John App stood unwavering in his decision in the belief that the right must ultimately prevail.

The work of a social reformer invariably demands

much more than just ordinary courage. The work often entails sacrifice, loss of popularity, loss of money, and even desertion by his best friends for a time. With all these possibilities of loss, John App stood adamant with respect to his convictions about the evils of the liquor business. He had placed himself on record as an opponent of a very popular social custom that had become well entrenched in the mores of the Pennsylvania German population. The only encouragement John App had was the fact that a very few of the more thoughtful people of the community stood by him. Some ten days prior to the harvest, Rev. Daniel Weiser, pastor of the Reformed Congregation of Selinsgrove (1824-1833), declared that he was willing to lay aside his clerical garment and assist in the harvesting of the wheat crops. George A. Snyder and Henry W. Snyder, sons of the governor, Charles Rhoads, Judge Alexander Jordan of Sunbury, and Attorneys J. Merrill Linn and John Lashells of New Berlin stood resolutely with App. The startling news spread to the adjoining counties and encouraging reports came from Sunbury, Lewisburg, New Berlin and Mifflinburg, but for the most part, the towns of the territory now known as Snyder County remained ominously silent since their people evidently believed in free whiskey for everybody at work in harvest fields.

It was then proclaimed that on a certain Monday morning the App harvest would be begun. A general invitation was extended to the working men of the neighborhood, and as an inducement App announced that he would pay ten cents extra per day for laborers who were willing to work without drinks. When Monday morning came, at an early hour the laborers appeared willing to work under App's conditions. Not only were the men willing to work but also their wives and daughters. App offered to provide the laborers with coffee or milk instead of whiskey, and to serve them with five meals per day, three regular meals, and ten o'clock and three o'clock lunches. Soon App had more laborers than he really needed. It is said that as many as fifty hands in all had offered their services. App hired fourteen cradlers, each with two rakers and binders, and a number of sicklers, and the remainder had to be sent home. The harvesting progressed rapidly and harmoniously and was soon ended. The program of "no-whiskey in the harvest field" had triumphed completely, and a new era of temperance reform had been started. To John App belongs the full

credit for the change to the better on the farms in the eastern portion of Snyder County. Similar reform movements were undertaken in other sections of the county. Amos Winey (1796-1879) is credited with having been the first farmer in the south-western section of the territory now known as Snyder County to refuse to furnish any kind of liquor to his harvest hands. Not unlike John App's experiences, Winey's decision to halt the use of liquor in his hay and harvest fields created much community discussion, but he stuck to his resolution and won out. The very men who had refused to work for him without their free liquor returned to him and asked for work. No doubt other leaders in other sections of the county had similar experiences.

Selected Readings

Aurand, A. Monroe, *The Pow-wow Book*

Aurand, A. Monroe, *Home Life of the Pennsylvania Germans*

Aurand, A. Monroe, *The Witches in the Hair*

Aurand, A. Monroe, *Child Life of the Pennsylvania Germans*

Aurand, A. Monroe, *Early Life of the Pennsylvania Germans*

Fogel, E. M., *Beliefs and Superstitions of the Pennsylvania Germans*

Gilbert, Russel W., *The Almanac in Pennsylvania German Homes*, Susquehanna University Studies, March, 1944

Hark, Ann, *Hex Marks the Spot*

Yoder, J. W., *Rosanna of the Amish*

CHAPTER 13

Agriculture As The Main Occupation Of The People

Let the farmer forever be honored in his calling, for
they who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God.

—Thomas Jefferson

The chief occupation of the people of Snyder County has always been farming. From the time of the earliest settlements, the inhabitants for the most part have been tillers of the soil. The very first settlers in the area now known as Snyder County located their farm houses near springs and streams in areas that they felt when cleared would be productive of field and vegetable crops. The contour of the area made this choice of location a very simple matter. The county is located on the west side of the Susquehanna River and possesses very fertile soil. The valleys of Middle Creek and Penn's Creek contain excellent farming lands. This land clearing and settling continued for some time until the choicest portions of the lands were taken. The late comers had to be content with clearing and putting into cultivation the areas of lesser productivity such as the slopes, the limestone, the gravel and red shale lands, and the thin stony soil of the hilly portions. But they were an industrious and hard-working people, and by dint of hard work they extracted from the soil the means of at least an honest and comfortable livelihood. It has to be said to the credit of the Pennsylvania Germans that as farmers, they easily stand in the front ranks of those people capable of turning the elements of the soil into grass, grains, and a vast assortment of vegetables as a means of livelihood.

The farming plan generally followed in Snyder County called for the four-year crop rotation of corn, oats, wheat and hay. The corn and oats and hay were largely fed to the livestock, and the wheat and oats straw used as bedding for the farm animals. Most of the wheat harvest was sold as a cash crop with a small portion kept for trading for flour needed in the family baking. The income from cattle was in the form of receipts of butter and occasionally beef sold to the butcher. Eggs and poultry were also sold, and usually several hogs were put on the market to add to the family cash income. About fifty years ago, the opening of a fluid milk market made for a definite shift in farm production away from the home manufacture of butter. Dairying soon became the principal source of income on the farm in the way of pro-

viding regularly a steady dependable supply of cash money for family maintenance and family savings. Increasing importance became attached to apple, peach, corn, potato, tomato, raspberry, strawberry, and garden and cannery vegetable crops as a great source of farm income. Instead of grain farming being the main source of farm income as it had been for so many years, the chief source of income of the farmer began to come from the production of hogs, cattle, poultry, and from the dairy products.

Patrons of Husbandry—Granges

Since the Pennsylvania German farmers generally were industrious and thrifty, many of them sought ways and means to improve their living conditions, employ more efficient ways of farming, and bring about a more profitable marketing of their products. This led to the organization of granges in different parts of the county. These local organizations were a part of a general organization throughout the country for the improvement of farm life. The order of Patrons of Husbandry (National Grange) was first established in 1867 at Washington, D. C. It was a secret association of farmers whose primary objective was to effect a co-operation relationship among the farming communities of the entire country for the improvement of the farming population, and for the better production and distribution of agricultural products. In other words, it aimed to unite the farming community into one common brotherhood and to educate and improve the agricultural population by association, co-operation, and by the mutual discussion of home and farm problems. The organization adopted for its name the word "grange" which really means "a farmhouse or a country house with the barn and other buildings for farming purposes".

The interests of the farmers were to be promoted by bringing the producers and consumers, the farmers and manufacturers, into a direct commercial relationship without the intervention of the middlemen or the traders. Because of the fluctuations of the national currency in use at the time, farmers found themselves at a great disadvantage in the sale of their farm products until the price of grain could be further stabilized. The farmer could see no consistent relationship between what he had to sell and what he had to buy. The farmers were compelled to market their grains for what they could get for them and buy their farm machinery at prices set by the manufac-

turer. The result was that co-operation in buying and selling became the main objective of the organization. While weak in its influence in the beginning and growing very slowly at first, the grange in due time became a powerful factor in the commercial and economic life of the nation. Co-operative stores were established, insurance companies were organized in the interests of the grange, grain shipments were made on large scales by the grange instead of depending as formerly on large grain merchants for it, and railroads were compelled to reduce their freight rates through the co-operative efforts of the grange. Legislation was enacted providing for the equalization of taxes on property, for the prevention of railroads from making discriminations in freight rates, and for putting into operation a program of great importance to the welfare of the rural people. Arrangements were made with wholesale houses in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia for the sale of farm products and for the purchase of groceries, goods, and farm implements at wholesale rates. All this was accomplished in addition to the fellowship and social values that the local granges themselves afforded.

Any organization that meets a community need is destined to grow and develop with the years. By 1885 Pennsylvania alone had upwards of 800 granges. Much of this increase was largely the result of the co-operative buying and selling program of the grange. In 1874 Snyder County joined the grange movement. Granges were organized in Monroe and Chapman Townships in 1874; in Perry, Union and Penn Townships in 1875; in West Beaver Township in 1876; in Beaver Township in 1877; and in Centre Township in 1878. By 1885 the membership of the grange in Snyder County consisted of 318 men and 182 women. The granges in Union, Beaver, Penn, Monroe, Jackson, and West Beaver Townships, owned their own grange halls. The granges in Chapman and Penn Townships had co-operative stores. Some of these granges have discontinued activity and have disbanded for various reasons such as the lack of leadership, the introduction of the large mail order houses, and other factors that have cut in heavily on the co-operative business program of the grange. The first Pomona Grange in the county was organized at Middleburg in 1881. The district was later realigned by making southern Northumberland County a part of this grange. At present there are active granges in Monroe, Jackson, Penn, Washington, and Beaver Townships. Freeburg has an active juvenile grange.

The Farm Bureau

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 is really the basis of the present agricultural extension of Snyder County. The act provided funds which were to be matched by the states, and then administered through the land-grant colleges of these different states, by farm and home directors for the purpose of giving instruction through meetings, demonstrations, and lectures in agriculture and home economics. The allotment of funds for the various states was to be in proportion to their rural population. All villages and towns with a population of less than 2,500 people were to be considered rural communities. In Snyder County, this work was to be done through our own Pennsylvania State College of Agriculture. The purposes of the whole program was to bring to the farmers of the county scientific information about farming, to aid them in producing larger and better crops at the lowest possible costs, and to market the farm products at reasonable profits.

Prior to the Smith-Lever Act, the work for the promotion of agriculture and home economics was done through Farmers' Institutes. Then followed the programs of the County Agriculture Extension Agent and the Home Economics Extension Director in the different counties. The term "co-operative extension work" covers the co-operative effect of the Federal and State governments and the county organizations, financially and otherwise, in planning, supporting, and carrying out a farm and home program. It becomes interesting to note that the inception of such a movement began in a debating society conducted during the school year 1917-1918 in the Hummel's School, Monroe Township, with Ira G. Sanders as the teacher. In one of the meetings, the question of co-operative extension work in agriculture and home economics was discussed. This led to another meeting in the same schoolhouse a little later when Dr. Fred P. Weaver, Pennsylvania State College Assistant Extension Director, addressed the people on the Farm Bureau and County Farm Agent Work. The need for improved methods in farming was felt in the community for some time. Many farmers believed the soil should produce more per acre. The opinion prevailed among the farmers that Snyder County should have a Farm Agent.

This discussion was taken up at one of the sessions of the Farmers' Institute held at Selinsgrove. At first there

was considerable opposition to the movement based largely on suspicions, politics, and extravagance. Some of the farmers felt quite certain that the practical farmer knew vastly more about farming than the "college-bred and book" farmers could possibly know. Attempts were made to laugh the idea of employing a book farmer out of court. But the conviction that Snyder County needed a Farm Bureau and a Farm Agent persisted. The following year the subject was again under discussion at the Farmers' Institute at Middleburg and resulted in creating a more favorable attitude among the farmers. In the meantime the pressure of the war called for the conservation of food supplies as well as for the production of larger quantities. The Executive Committee of the Snyder County Council of Public Safety met at Middleburg, August 16, 1918, with Dr. Charles T. Aikens, President of Susquehanna University, presiding. At this meeting a committee was selected, consisting of President Aikens, R. Lloyd Schroyer, and Ira G. Sanders, for the purpose of making arrangements for a public meeting in the Court House at Middleburg "to organize a Snyder County Farm Bureau and to secure the appointment of a County Farm Agent". Articles were appearing from time to time in the county papers favorable to the project. The Duroc-Jersey Hog Show at Plum Creek in 1919, sponsored by the Northumberland County Farm Bureau under the direction of the county Farm Agent, proved a great success and lent much support to the movement in Snyder County for a similar program. Nothing tangible appears to have been done immediately since in the spring of 1919 the records state that "Snyder County is one of three counties in the state which has no farm agent, and no active farmers' organization", but the wheels of progress were rolling as we shall presently see.

A public meeting was held August 25, 1919, to discuss the entire proposition. Dr. Fred P. Weaver of State College and Mr. J. M. Fry, the Farm Agent of Northumberland County, gave addresses. The outcome of the meeting was the organization of the Farm Bureau for the county with Ira G. Sanders of Monroe Township, President; Edwin Bower of Middleburg, vice president; John S. Kaufman of Franklin Township, secretary; Jay Dreese of Franklin Township, treasurer; and an Executive Committee consisting of J. M. Rauch, Stewart Hall, W. A. Sauers, Frank F. Glass, and Thomas A. Stetler. A committee of three, consisting of Sanders, Bowers, and Dreese,

interviewed the county commissioners for the purpose of obtaining county financial support of the newly-launched enterprise. The county commissioners refused to act favorably on the grounds that they felt a majority of the voters of the county would not be favorable to an appropriation from the public funds for the program. The committee then proceeded to circulate petitions over the county. These petitions asking for an appropriation of \$1,500 were presented to the county commissioners and a pledge of financial support was obtained by a two-to-one vote, April 12, 1920. Isaac Longacre and Ira P. Roush were favorable and O. B. Sanders opposed to the appropriation. This action was reported to the Pennsylvania State College Agricultural Extension Director, M. S. McDowell, and J. S. Oberle was appointed in 1920 as the first farm agent of Snyder County. Mr. Oberle served until 1929 when he was transferred to Chester County and Ira L. Yoder of Berks County became his successor, and has continued in that position to the present time.

The county farm agent was required to possess certain qualifications such as being reared on the farm and having had first-hand contacts with farm life, as well as a four-year course in agriculture. He was chosen by the Pennsylvania State College of Agriculture and paid by the college out of funds appropriated by the Federal and State governments. The expenses of the county agent in carrying on his work throughout the county such as traveling, office, telephone, and stenographic help were to be met from funds appropriated by the county commissioners.

The Farm Bureau sponsored the educational program planned by the county agent in co-operation with the people of the county. In formulating the county program the needs and wishes of the people were sought and an effort made to satisfy them in the annual extension program. This program covered improved practices in crop and live stock production, and in supplying farmers with seed, fertilizers, feed and a large line of products in demand on a well-regulated and well-managed farm. The program was carried on by means of local and county-wide meetings, lectures, visual aids, and demonstrations. A movement by the farmers got under way to buy protein concentrates to balance with home grains for cattle feeding rather than to feed the ration ready mixed at the mills. The county granges co-operated with the Farm Bureau in pooling orders for cotton-seed, linseed meal, and other concentrates. A number of carloads of feed-

stuffs were brought into the county and distributed during the winter of 1920-21. This activity by the Farm Bureau proved to be in direct competition with the proprietors of the mills and feed stores and led to the criticism that the Farm Bureau was a competitive commercial organization financed by public funds. This led to the gradual abandonment of the program, and within a few years all such work was handled by the local granges and not by the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau began to emphasize the educational angle of the agricultural program and all opposition to it rapidly disappeared.

Farmers' Institutes

Farmers' Institutes began to be conducted in the county at the turn of the century under the auspices of the State Department of Agriculture. An organization was effected in October 1893, known as the Snyder County Farmers' Institute. These institutes were held annually during the months of January or February over a period of two days, usually at two different places in the county. The usual meeting places were Middleburg, Selinsgrove, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Kreamer, Port Trevorton, Shamokin Dam, and Beavertown. The programs were planned by a local committee in co-operation with the State Department of Agriculture. At the institute held in Middleburg, February 10-11, 1903, the subjects discussed were soil improvement, soil fertility, soil moisture and the benefits of draining, what every farmer should know about a horse, horse-shoeing and the anatomy of the horse's leg and foot, fruit culture, and the care of a vegetable garden.

These institutes were continued until 1921 when apparently they were abandoned for the reason that "the farmers failed to attend the sessions" for some cause or another. It is very difficult to understand this since the topics for discussion were live, practical, and up-to-date, and the speakers were among the best authorities in their respective fields. An examination of the programs for nearly a score of years must convince the reader that their interest and purpose primarily was the improvement of the farming in the county and yet the farmers failed to take advantage of the opportunity. The lecturers generally were men from the State Department of Agriculture, the State College of Agriculture, and other well-known agriculturists throughout the state. The topics discussed from year to year were along the line of farm crops, soil fertility, stock-breeding, feeding of farm animals, dairy-

ing, spraying of trees and control of insect pests and even ways and means of economic household management.

The State Department of Agriculture, with the co-operation of local leaders, employed additional ways and means to improve agriculture in the county. In March, 1910, a special orchard demonstration train, under the jurisdiction of the State Division of Zoology and Department of Agriculture, was run on the Sunbury-Lewistown railroad for the primary purpose of supplementing the work of the Farmers' Institutes. The train was under the personal direction and supervision of Professor Harvey A. Surface, State Zoologist, and made stops at Selinsgrove, Kreamer, Middleburg, Beavertown, and McClure. The purpose was to demonstrate and explain methods of pruning and spraying trees and otherwise caring for fruit trees. A little later in the same year, a special train conducted by the Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture and Experimental Station made a similar trip through the county. It seemed that no effort was spared to enlighten the farmers in every way in the ways and means of agriculture.

The County Agricultural Extension Association

At the fourth annual meeting of the County Farm Bureau, December 8, 1923, by action of the Farm Bureau the name of the organization was changed from the Snyder County Farm Bureau to the Snyder County Agricultural Association, and this name has been continued to the present time. This new name is significant in the fact that it emphasizes the extension of information relative to farming and home life to the rural population as its main objective. "The sole object shall be to assist extension representatives in the agricultural extension work and to aid such a program for the development and the advancement of the agricultural and rural life of the county. Any farmer or person owning farm land or who is interested and willing to aid in the development of the agricultural and rural life is considered a member." There are no membership dues, fees, or other charges of the association. Its funds come from the county appropriations made by the county commissioners, requested annually by the Executive Committee of the organization after having set up the program of activities for the year. These funds are used to pay the traveling expenses of the county agent, stenographic assistance, postage and stationery, telephone and office expenses. At the beginn-

ing, an automobile was purchased and placed at the disposal of the county agent. Since 1932, the transportation expenses have been provided at a mileage rate and the county agent is reimbursed for all travel incidental to his work. The annual meetings of the association are held usually in the month of December. At this annual meeting the officers are selected, and they in turn choose an Executive Committee to serve during the ensuing year. The Executive Committee is charged with the transaction of the business of the association, and holds its meetings monthly except June, July, and August.

The County Agricultural Extension Association held its meeting in 1940 in the Evangelical Church at Middleburg. Among the subjects discussed were ditch blasting by dynamite, chair-caning, co-operative marketing, farm grain demonstrations, the Four-H clubs, the care of apple orchards, and home-made kitchen conveniences. The 1945 meeting was held in the Court House at Middleburg.

While the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 provided for a program of home-making among the rural population, it was not until 1926 that something tangible was done in the county. In that year a home economics extension representative gave some time to this work in Snyder County. At that time Miss Harmony Hutchinson worked out of Sunbury two days weekly, traveling by train to meet with women home-making groups at Kreamer, Middleburg, Beavertown, McClure, and other places for the discussion of foods, clothing, and other domestic problems. In 1928 Union and Snyder Counties shared in the home extension work with Miss Christine V. Buell, who alternated her work weekly between the two counties. She was succeeded in 1932 by Miss Ella Reynolds. In 1935 Miss Bernice Strasbaugh became a full-time home economics extension worker in the county. She was succeeded in 1937 by Miss Catherine Holland, the present incumbent.

In the meantime a dairymen's league was functioning in the county, and this organization in co-operation with the County Farm Bureau put on the Susquehanna Valley Farmers' Picnic at Rolling Green Park, August 17, 1921. A fine exhibit of farm machinery and many other attractions drew an estimated crowd of 8,000 people. This Farmers' Picnic was an annual affair for a number of years and always attracted large crowds of people.

A Junior Extension feature of the County Agricultural Association, known as the Four-H Club program consists of projects of interest peculiar to rural young people be-

tween the ages of ten and twenty. In 1923 under the sponsorship of the Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce, a Four-H potato club was organized as the first activity of its kind in the county. Since that time the Four-H clubs have been operating in activities centering around dairy calf, dairy heifer, milk production, baby chicks, capons, pig feeding, pig breeding, sweet corn, tomatoes, melons, strawberries, as well as potatoes. In addition to these farm projects a wide variety of homemaking Four-H projects have been completed including sewing, cooking, canning, room improvement and many others. More than 500 agricultural Four-H projects have been conducted during these years since 1923. Four-H Clubs are rural young people's organizations active in having members own, raise, and care for various types of crops or livestock projects. Record-keeping including cost accounts are a part of the work.

Two Holstein Bull Associations were organized in 1926 and 1929 respectively, to provide better dairy stock. In each case four pure-bred bulls were bought and placed in farmers' herds to be rotated each two years. At the end of eight years each co-operating dairyman had the use of four different sires at one-fourth the cost of providing himself with a sire individually. Artificial breeding has taken over an increasingly large place in stock breeding. Beginning in 1942, with headquarters in Lewisburg, this service is now extended to more than sixty Snyder County dairymen who are co-operating members. Over two thousand breeding females are being serviced now by one practitioner. This program makes possible the use of much better sires than the average farmer could afford individually.

Dairy record-keeping by a cow tester was started in 1929 and then abandoned. In 1931 a group of farmers joined with a number of Northumberland County farmers to form the Northumberland-Snyder Cow Testing Association. Eight Snyder Countians continued in this program until April 1, 1944, when an all-Snyder County Organization was again started. This group of twenty-four dairymen is now completing its second year as a Snyder County unit in dairy herd improvement testing. The association employs a tester who keeps detailed monthly individual cow records of milk, butterfat, production and value, feed costs, and balance of value of product above feed costs. Such records are of value to the dairymen in analyzing their herd, in feeding for profitable production, in

culling out unprofitable cows, in breeding for the improvement of stock, and in the sale of surplus animals.

The Snyder County Agricultural Extension Association has been a going concern for a number of years. There is a felt need for such an organization, and that is the reason why the organization persists in its existence. Many people of the county have had an active interest in the agricultural extension program from year to year. Since the county population is largely rural and its pursuits mainly agricultural, the agricultural extension program definitely meets a need in the lives of the people. The presidents of the association since its beginning, and named in the order of service, have been Ira G. Sanders, E. T. Bower, William F. Gabel, William J. Treaster, Charles E. Wagner, and Harry E. Kuster. Under the leadership of the officers and with the co-operation of many other local people, the farm and home economics work among adults and the young people has flourished and expanded. Probably more than seventy-five different men and women have been actively identified with the association as officers and members of the Executive Committee.

The Fruit Growers' Association

The County Fruit Growers' Association was organized at a meeting held in the Court House at Middleburg, January 13, 1912. Professor W. W. Brunner of Paxtonville was elected president of the organization, George W. Beaver, vice-president, and B. J. Moyer, secretary.

Another meeting was held during March of the same year when Professor H. A. Surface, State Economic Zoologist, gave a lecture on "Orcharding and Orchard Cultivation". Meetings were held again in 1913 and then they appear to have been abandoned. For some reason or other the organization proved to be short-lived. In the spring of 1930, there were three county-wide fruit growers' meetings and excellent interest was shown in them. C. E. Wagner of McClure was active in these meetings, and when an organization was effected early in 1931 with twenty-two members, he was elected its president. This time the organization began to hold annually three or four county-wide meetings of an educational nature together with public spraying demonstrations. The group bought two carloads of liquid lime sulfur and also a considerable amount of lead arsenate and nicotine co-operatively early in 1931. Since that time the association has been engaged in co-operative purchasing of spray materials and fertiliz-

ers each year. The association usually holds an orchard tree protection demonstration for poisoning mice each fall. Last November eight bushels of wheat were prepared with poison sufficient to protect over 200 acres of apple orchards. According to a statement by Shem Aigler of Beavertown, the secretary of the organization, its membership in 1945 was numbered thirty-four fruit growers.

In the fall of 1931 the fruit growers selected apples for the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January, 1932. At each farm show since that, Snyder County displays have been prepared and exhibited with the single exception of the year 1939. In competition with displays from Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, Chester, Lehigh, and other counties, the Snyder County Fruit Growers' Association exhibit has taken first place for two years, second place for four years, third place for two years, fifth place for one year, and failed to take a place one year. The present president of the association is M. C. Harner of Paxtonville.

The County Agricultural Fairs

Since the people of the county have always been largely given to farming, it was natural to expect the formation of an organization at an early date to promote the cause of agriculture. Such an organization, known as the Snyder County Agricultural Society, was incorporated by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in May, 1860. The society had an original membership roll of 330 persons. The membership fee for a year was set at fifty cents, but later it was raised to one dollar.

The agricultural society soon realized that the cause of agriculture in the county might best be served by an annual agricultural fair. In accordance with this belief, bids were received from the several county towns to determine a place for holding the fair. Kratzerville, Freeburg, and Selinsgrove, each offered twenty-five dollars but Middleburg agreed to contribute thirty dollars and hence was selected as the place for the fair. This first fair in the county was to be held in October, 1862, but this plan was finally abandoned because of the war and the unsettled conditions of the country.

Nothing appears to have been done during the following nine years in the way of carrying out the purpose of the society. Then the people began to ask why Snyder County didn't have a functioning agricultural society. They reported that the farmers certainly were interested

in agriculture, that they were sufficiently intelligent, and that they attended fairs in neighboring counties thereby showing their interest and appreciation. During this period of agitation, an announcement was made through the county papers requesting that all citizens of the county favorable to the suggestion should convene in the Court House at Middleburg, March 1, 1870, for the purpose of either reorganizing an old society or for forming a new one. An informal meeting of many of the original members of the society and of other interested citizens was held and a reorganization effected. The following persons were chosen as the officers of the society—Thomas Bower, president; Daniel S. Boyer, secretary; Allen Schoch, treasurer; C. L. Fisher, librarian; J. P. Cronimiller, geologist; and T. B. Kantz, chemist. These officers were re-elected each year for the next four successive years. Steps were taken to hold another meeting in May to devise ways and means of holding an agricultural fair in the fall and in other ways to further the purposes of the society. THE SEL-INSGROVE TIMES in commenting on this movement remarked—"This institution has been revived and it is hoped the farmers of the county will take the proper interest in the matter."

At the meeting of the society in May in the Court House in Middleburg, it was decided to hold the fair October 3-4-5, 1870. Plans were laid to receive bids from the several county towns that might be interested in having the fair. It was agreed that the one town that would offer the grounds free, make the largest contribution, and agree to put up the temporary buildings and fences free of cost to the society should have the fair. At another meeting of the society in August, the above proposals were modified to include only free grounds and the largest contribution. Middleburg offered the grounds and a cash contribution of \$225.00 while Freeburg offered the grounds and \$400 in cash. Freeburg was selected as the place to hold the first Snyder County Agricultural Fair. Plans were immediately made to erect a temporary building fifty feet by twenty-eight feet by ten feet, roofed and weather-boarded, for the exhibition of the agricultural products and to build twenty stalls for the care of the farm animals. It was agreed to have this work done by contract. It was agreed also that the party erecting the building and the stall was to retain all the lumber and other materials used for his own use after the adjournment of the fair. The contract was awarded to H. H. Grimm of Freeburg for

\$150. A premium list was agreed upon and provision made for the selection of competent judges to decide the awards. The fair grounds were located in a field north-east of the present public school grounds. At the present time a silk mill is located on the corner lot of this field. The receipts of the fair were \$631.72.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society at Middleburg, July 29, 1871, it was decided that the Second Annual Fair should be held at Selinsgrove, October 2-3-4, 1871. The citizens of Selinsgrove contributed \$350 toward its support. At this meeting Freeburg made a liberal offer again but since the amount pledged the previous year still remained unpaid, the society refused to receive any proposals from that town until it had first paid this obligation. The only other town that had put in a bid was Middleburg, and her bid was \$345 or less than that of Selinsgrove. The fact is that Selinsgrove had succeeded in raising \$510, thus leaving \$160 above and beyond the bid for incidental expenses. The grounds on the Isle of Que were prepared for the fair and the needed buildings erected. Colonel Alexander K. McClure, a Philadelphia publisher and writer and an officer of the newly-built Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad, was asked to give the agricultural address. The receipts of the Selinsgrove fair were \$970.33.

The Third Annual Agricultural Fair was held at Middleburg in October, 1872. The citizens of Middleburg obligated themselves to contribute \$305, furnish the grounds free, and grade the race course. The proceeds of the fair were \$760.70. The Society then purchased five acres and forty-seven perches of land from Albright Swineford for \$1,042 and five acres and one hundred forty-one perches from Samuel Bowen for \$958 as a fair ground. This land was located within the borough limits. This expenditure of money for grounds created a larger debt for the society than it was able to carry as we shall presently see. The Fourth Annual Fair was likewise held at Middleburg in October, 1873, on the newly-purchased grounds, where permanent buildings had been erected. During the fair days at Middleburg in 1874 and 1875, bad weather was encountered and the income was insufficient to defray the current expenses. Hence, the fair grounds were sold to cancel the society's indebtedness. The grounds were purchased by Daniel Bollender of Middleburg.

An attempt was made to hold the fair again the fol-

lowing year but it was poorly attended and little interest shown in it. This was equally true of the Selinsgrove Fair in the same year. Both the Selinsgrove and the Middleburg managements blamed the Centennial Year largely for the condition. Several successive attempts were made after 1876 to continue the Middleburg Fair but the prospects were so poor that the plan had to be abandoned and the fair grounds were used for agricultural purposes. This marks the end of the County Fair at Middleburg under the management of the Snyder County Agricultural Society. Hopes, however, were entertained by the most enthusiastic agriculturists for almost a score of years that an annual county agricultural fair at the county seat might become a permanent part of the agricultural life of the county. This hope found expression at a called meeting of the society in the Court House at Middleburg, May 9, 1896, when an effort was made to revive the interest in a county fair. It was then reported that twelve acres of land could be bought from Daniel Bollender for \$3,000 suitable for a fair. It was likewise estimated that the cost of putting up buildings and fences, and of getting the track in shape would be about \$2,500. The society concluded that at least \$3,000 should be raised before any attempt be made to undertake a fair. Subscription lists were immediately circulated in Middleburg and throughout the county to raise this amount. The money subscribed was to be in the form of shares at the rate of ten dollars per share. Prospective buyers, however, were definitely told that the stock would not pay dividends until the returns of the fair would make that possible. Undoubtedly the bankruptcy of the previous fair was still too vivid in the memories of the citizens, the money failed to be subscribed, and the whole movement came to nought.

We shall now turn our attention to the Agricultural Fair held at Selinsgrove, on the Isle of Que, for thirteen consecutive years from 1873 to 1885. This Selinsgrove Fair came about in this manner. On July 29, 1873, representative citizens of the county met in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Selinsgrove, and organized the Snyder County Union Agricultural Association. It must be recalled here that the fair in Selinsgrove in October, 1871, the fair in Freeburg in 1870, and the fairs in Middleburg (1872-1876) were conducted under the auspices of the Snyder County Agricultural Society, but all the fairs in Selinsgrove (1873-1885) were held under the auspices of this newly-formed association. Just why this new agricultural

society was formed when the county agricultural society was still in existence must largely be a matter of conjecture. A statement in the SELINSGROVE TIMES of July 18, 1873, may throw some light on the problem. "If conducted in a fair and honorable way, honestly, and not for the sole benefit of any clique or faction or individual, then this proposed new society will undoubtedly prove a success." The first annual fair under the management of the Snyder County Union Agricultural Association was held on the Isle of Que, October 9-11, 1873. It proved a success beyond the expectations of its warmest friends. The local papers reported that no less than 5,000 persons were in attendance. The entrances were numerous and the articles were mostly of a rare character or of an excellent quality. The second annual fair was held October 1-3, 1874, and turned out to be equally successful.

The Third Annual Fair of the Snyder County Union Agricultural Association was held on the Isle of Que grounds, October 7-8-9, 1875. Much publicity was given the fair through the local papers. For several successive issues preceding fair week there were listed the various farm animals and material things to be placed on exhibit. Among the things listed were farm animals, poultry, grains, vegetables, fruits, jellies, bread and butter, pastry, plants and flowers, preserved and canned fruit, carpets, needlework, embroidery, paintings, agricultural implements, manufactured articles, carriages, dry goods of home manufacture, etc. The races proved to be of special interest. There were usually three classes of races. First, county horses, time 3:10, purse \$50; secondly, imported race horses, time 2:45, purse \$75; and thirdly, the sweepstake race, time 2:35, purse \$160.

Farm Lands, Live Stock, and Crop Production in the County.

	1884	1910	1920	1930	1940	1946
1 Number of Farms	1,785	1,845	1,753	1,596	1,667	1,584
2 Acreage of farms	149,887	151,922	147,397	139,442	138,097	139,304
3 Farms operated by owners			1,110	1,174	1,068	1,103
4 Farms operated by managers and tenants			643	422	599	481
5 Horses and mules	5,445	5,163	5,085	3,844	3,092	2,326
6 Milk cows and heifers	5,200	5,661	6,440	7,341	5,543	7,195
7 Other cattle	6,000	4,703	4,953	5,116	3,809	5,480

	1884	1910	1920	1930	1940	1946
8 Hogs	12,600	8,572	12,737	6,740	8,210	9,436
9 Chickens	78,500	136,396	162,343	174,381	187,031	238,264
10 Sheep	2,000	699	390	667	221	249
11 Milk production (gallons)	1,624,400	1,629,425	2,409,635	3,357,706	2,933,286	4,221,126
12 Butter production (pounds)	425,300	558,521	379,237	163,371	99,179	142,728
13 Egg production (dozens)	444,000	857,053	855,260	1,292,305	1,448,949	2,072,729
14 Corn (bushels)	482,300		749,321	591,243	648,534	513,360
15 Wheat production (bushels)	257,000		276,078	244,081	253,731	260,892
16 Oats production (bushels)	323,900		395,267	336,797	333,562	339,954
17 Potato production (bushels)	128,700		193,059	144,214	96,155	104,793
18 Apple production (bushels)	49,662		84,488	64,008	97,313	80,023
19 Pear production (bushels)	360		2,103	1,741	3,089	10,814
20 Peach production (bushels)	246		23,965	8,002	27,720	35,933
21 Tobacco production (pounds)				25,000	46,605	71,175
22 Hay production (tons)	24,100		24,414	19,202	15,375	25,220

Fairs were held annually during the month of October for a period of thirteen years (1873-1885) on the Isle of Que Fair Grounds. On Tuesday evening, June 8, 1886, the main building on the Fair Grounds was destroyed by fire. A number of farm implements that had been stored in the building were also destroyed. There was no insurance on the property and the result was a total loss to the association.

The Selinsgrove Driving and Park Association

This association was organized May, 1877 by Dr. B. F. Wagenseller, Sepharas Gemberling, Lewis E. Pawling, Charles Miller, Henry J. Ritter, George Schnure, Jonas Trexler, Charles H. Boyer, Philip Hilbish, Franklin J. Schoch, and A. Z. Schoch. The grounds owned by the association were located on the Isle of Que and were composed of ten acres of land, a race track and suitable exhibition grounds, and buildings such as grandstands and horse stables. Its purpose was the improvement of speed in horses for the holding of agricultural fairs, and to afford a driving course and pleasure ground for the general public. The association had a capital stock of \$4,000. There were 100 shares at forty dollars per share, and each

subscriber owned ten shares. The organization was incorporated September 28, 1877, by the County Court of Common Pleas, the Hon. Joseph C. Bucher being the President Judge. On June 8, 1886 the buildings were destroyed by fire and never rebuilt.

School Community Fairs

The first annual Beaver Community Fair was held at the Beaver Vocational High School, October 11, 1929. The fair was sponsored by the agriculture classes of the high school. The purpose of the fair was to provide an opportunity for the pupils to place on exhibit the products of their projects, to promote the common interest in agriculture, and to encourage the production of better crops. While originally a school activity, the fair soon developed into a community activity. The organization was chartered by the Court of Common Pleas of the county January 6, 1941.

The exhibits have been classified as the high school, the grade school, and the farmers' exhibits. These exhibits covered all kinds of agriculture and home economics products of the school and community. Probably more than 1,800 different items have been listed at a single fair. The premium list usually consists of more than a hundred classifications of agricultural products and of more than 150 classifications of home economics products. Prizes are awarded for the best exhibits. During the past few years, commercial exhibits, consisting of electrical apparatus, washers, radios, have been added. There are also poultry judging contests and demonstration contests by high school boys of tree grafting and of treating seed potatoes and seed oats. An evening program of entertainment and education consisting of playlets, addresses, sound movies, music, contests and games is a feature of the fair. There is no charge for admission to the grounds and none for exhibit entries. Hundreds of people visit the fair each year. In September, 1946, was held the eighteenth consecutive annual fair.

The Middleburg Community Fair was held either in October or November of the years 1929, 1936, 1937, 1938, and 1939. It was likewise sponsored by the agriculture and home economics classes of the local high school. The exhibits were classified as rural schools, high schools, and adults, and consisted of poultry, eggs, fruit, vegetables, grains of all kinds, canned goods, potatoes, ladies' hand-work and cut flowers. There were at times livestock ex-

hibits limited to the calves and hogs of the projects of members of the junior and senior classes of the high school. Usually there were from 400 to 500 exhibits of all kinds. The evening program was conducted in the courthouse and usually consisted of a community sing, an address, and the presentation of a one-act play. About 1,500 people participated in the affairs of the day.

Tobacco Cultivation

The raising of tobacco on anything like a large scale constitutes one of the more recent developments in the agricultural pursuits of our county. Years ago its cultivation was very largely associated with the southern states. Today we associate tobacco growing with a number of the northern states, among them being our own state of Pennsylvania. Tobacco has been produced on a fairly large scale for commercial purposes in the Verdilla section for about twenty-five years, and around the Kantz area for at least fifteen years. As early as 1921 at least ten tons were shipped to Lancaster from the Selinsgrove Railroad station. This tobacco was grown in Union Township near Herrold's schoolhouse. Tobacco growing was introduced into the county on an extensive scale by farmers of the Mennonite faith. The early shippers were John Brubaker, John Stauffer, and Elias Stauffer. At first, tobacco cultivation in the county was found in a few small isolated spots but today entire fields of tobacco can be found in the county, particularly in the townships of Penn, Washington, and Union, and especially in the neighborhood of Kantz, Verdilla, and Freeburg. Approximately twenty-eight farmers in our county are growing it, and the amount grown annually on about 110 acres of land for shipping purposes is something like eighty tons of tobacco. It looks now as though tobacco will soon be one of the stable products of Snyder County farms.

The commercial value of the tobacco plant is found in its leaves. The tobacco leaf has been the source of pleasure to an ever-increasing number of people for hundreds of years. The tobacco plant belongs to the same family as the potato, tomato, and egg plant. The tobacco plant grows from three to eight feet high, bears large, long-pointed, oblong, simple leaves varying in length from one to three feet and growing directly from the stalk. The leaves are alternately arranged on the stem. The plant terminates in clusters of variegated-colored, bell-shaped flowers. Unless the tobacco is pro-

duced for seed, the flowering terminals together with the leaves, are broken off in order to utilize that strength in the growth and the development of the remaining leaves, and to hasten their maturing and ripening. This "topping" process usually leads to the formation of false leaves known as suckers growing from the axils of the leaves. These suckers have to be removed speedily by hand in order to direct the growth processes into more useful channels.

The nature of the soil and climate greatly influences the color, texture, the amount of nicotine, and the quality of the tobacco leaf in general. Tobacco may be grown in a wide variety of soils under varying conditions as is demonstrated by the fact that not only are Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky, numbered among the great tobacco states but also Pennsylvania, Ohio, Connecticut, and even Wisconsin. The limestone soil produces a light-colored, mild variety; the red clayey soil produces the dark, heavy kinds; the light, sandy soil produces the yellow kind; and the heavy-black soil produces the strong, dark variety.

The raising of tobacco somewhat corresponds to the raising of cabbage or tomatoes. The tiny tobacco seeds are sown in the beginning of April under normal weather conditions in a bed of rich pulverized soil. The seed is so small that a tablespoonful is sufficient to plant six and one-half acres. This bed is dug and prepared like an ordinary garden bed. All weed seeds that may be found in the bed are killed by steaming the soil for about thirty minutes. This is accomplished by covering the bed with special pans for the purpose and forcing the steam into the ground under these pans. Generally a day elapses before the soil is sufficiently cool to sow the seeds. The tobacco seeds are very slow to germinate, usually requiring about two weeks to appear above the ground. This seeding is done by putting about one-half of the seed in a sprinkling can of water, stirring it thoroughly, and then applying it to the soil. The remaining half of the seed is applied in like fashion in order to get an even spread. A heaping teaspoonful will be sufficient for about twenty-five square yards. Two-thirds of a tablespoonful would be adequate for thirty-two square yards. The bed is then covered with a special tobacco cloth, somewhat midway in structure between muslin and cheese-cloth, to protect

the seedlings from the hot sun as is commonly done with garden seed-beds. This cloth is left over the bed until the plants have grown to about the size of a dime. Then the cloth is removed in cloudy days only, so as to prevent the sun from scorching the plants. These young plants are very tender and require frequent watering with weak liquid manure.

In about eight weeks, the young plants, ranging in height from six to eight inches, are transplanted by hand or machine in rows about three and one-half feet apart and at a distance between the plants of about two and one-half feet, depending on the kind of tobacco with respect to the length of its leaves. It takes about 5,000 plants for an acre. When the planting is done by hand, it usually takes one person a day to plant from one to two acres. When planting by hand, a small hole is made in the ground by a sharpened stick for the plant, and then filled with earth; when the planting is done by machine, the amount of work done can be increased about three-fold. At the time of transplanting, the ground ought to be damp since the plants need a great deal of moisture. The ground must be thoroughly cultivated at least three or four times to insure anything like a good crop. The soil must be made fertile with plenty of barnyard manure, lime, and a complete fertilizer. In short, the kind of cultivation, soil, and weather conditions that make possible a good crop of corn will also make possible a good tobacco crop.

The growing plants have to be protected from insects, cutworms, plant diseases, rust, and the larvae of the sphynx moth. These larvae are the so-called large, green worms, with diagonal white stripes, and a sharp horn at the back part of the body. These larvae feed on the leaves of the tobacco plant as well as upon the egg-plant, red pepper, jimson weed, and the tomato plant. These plant pests can be controlled by crop rotation, or by hydrated lime dusting with a mixture of cheap wheat flour and arsenate of lead, sprays of various kinds, and by hand-picking of the larvae. Thus far nothing really successful has been found to deal with rust.

The tobacco leaves are ready to be harvested just as soon as they show a change to a yellowish color, and the veins and leaf parts tend to break when folded between the fingers. Harvesting tobacco normally occurs in the beginning of September. It is extremely important that

the crop be harvested at the proper time. The variety of tobacco and the way it is grown determines whether the entire stalk is cut or the leaves harvested separately as they ripen. In the former method, a tobacco shears is used to cut the stalk and the leaves are being supported on sticks about four feet long, headed with a metal point called "a shears", in an inverted position by means of a cord or hooks; or the stick is forced through the end of the stalk, or the stalk is split and suspended over the stick. There usually are from five to eight stalks on each stick. It takes about 1,000 sticks to harvest an acre of tobacco. The sticks containing the stalks of tobacco are transported to the barn or to some ventilated shed by wagon with a rack, and there the tobacco is exposed to the open air by means of the rack or a scaffold. The tobacco is kept in the barn until the month of December or even later. Then during the damp weather it is removed to the cellar and finally stripped, baled, and put on the market.

When the leaves of the tobacco plant are harvested separately, they are removed from the stalk as they ripen. This is done from three to five times in an interval of a week or two. They are then tied together into small bundles and cured by exposure to the sun, by heating in the open by log fires or in houses furnished with artificial heat ranging from 90° to 220° Fahrenheit, or by subjecting the leaves to great pressure. After the curing process has been completed, the leaves are assorted into grades according to their size, color, and quality. They are exposed to moist air, packed in boxes or bales or hogsheads, and stored in warehouses to undergo a sweating or fermentation, and then put on the market. Usually one of the following steps is taken to get the tobacco from the producer to the buyer. The buyer may purchase the crop at the farm after which the grower delivers it at the railroad station or hauls it to the buyer's warehouse or the grower may take his crop to the warehouse to be sold at auction on a commission basis. The tobacco may be held at auction or by private bargaining either by means of samples or the full crop packed in containers. The first method is the one followed by our local tobacco growers. The buyers come to the farm during the growing season, inspect the crop, and make the purchase.

The tobacco around here usually sells on the average of ten cents per pound. One acre of land in our county on the average produces about 1,500 pounds of tobacco.

Last year between four and five carloads of tobacco were shipped out of Snyder County. The tobacco crop in the entire country amounted approximately to 1,750,000,000 pounds with an acreage of over two million acres. The tobacco yield per acre in Snyder County is considerably larger than it is for the tobacco producing states in general.

Cattle Plague in the County

A cattle plague in the nature of a foot-and-mouth disease made its appearance in the county in 1908. It was technically known as apthous fever. The origin of the disease was traced to the shipment of cattle into the county. It worked a great hardship upon the farmers and cattle dealers. The farms where cattle were found diseased were quarantined, and every precautionary measure was taken to prevent the spread of the disease. It was found that the germs were carried on the soles of shoes, and that the disease was transmitted to children through the milk and meats of the infected cattle. The government forbade the shipment of cattle, sheep and hogs in and out of the infected areas. All cattle found afflicted with the disease were killed. Entire herds were exterminated. Trenches forty feet by seven feet by seven feet were dug, and the diseased cattle taken to the edge of the trench and shot so that the carcass toppled into the ditch. The bodies were covered with a copious supply of lime and then covered up with earth. The owners were partly reimbursed by the State and Federal Governments for their losses. This cattle plague was very common in Union, Snyder, and Montour counties.

The First Annual Cornhusking Contest in the County

The first annual cornhusking contest in the county was held on the G. Adam Inch farm near Kantz, October 22, 1941. Over a score of competitors took part in the preliminary elimination contest held in the forenoon of that day. In this preliminary contest, the six persons who succeeded in husking the most corn in a five-minute period from a pile of unhusked ears placed before each one of the contestants, qualified for the final contest in the afternoon. The conditions of the final contest were that the corn stalks had to be standing, the ears thrown upon the wagon, and the period of full time fixed at eighty minutes. Each man was given two rows of corn, each 190 yards in length. A tractor-drawn wagon was

moved along the opposite row. There were penalties proportioned according to the amount of the husk left on the ears, for ears not thrown on the wagon, or for ears that remained on the stalk. The corn of each husker was weighed, and one pound was subtracted from each one-hundred pounds of corn for every ounce of husk and silk left on the ears in excess of the five ounces allowed without penalty. For each pound of corn left on the stalk or lying on the ground, the husker was penalized three pounds. The winner of the contest was Harold G. Dauberman, who succeeded in husking fifteen and one-half bushels during the eighty-minute period of the contest.

The Snyder County Mutual Horse Protective Association

Among the institutions that originated in Snyder County, served their day and then passed out of existence, was the Snyder County Mutual Horse Protective Association. While it was an organization of farmers who resided in the eastern portion of the county in the townships of Penn, Monroe, Jackson, Middlecreek, Washington, Union and Chapman, and was in existence only forty years, it nevertheless reflected the ingenuity, ability, and the willingness of citizens to co-operate in an enterprise for the common good that succeeding generations might well emulate. The act of incorporation, April 8, 1862, signed by Governor Andrew G. Curtin, is a unique instrument and furnishes evidence of the method by which such an association could be legally constituted. The association began its existence with sixteen members, all residents of Penn Township with the exception of John Hummel, H. B. Hetrick, and Henry D. Fisher, residents of Monroe Township. To this group of men were added from time to time many other farmers and horse owners of other townships.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the extra demand for horses used in the cavalry and artillery of the armed forces of the North and South appeared to encourage horse stealing. Horses brought a high price in the open market. This made the breeding and raising of horses a profitable part of farm work. In these days of the Civil War and for many years following that period the average price of a good farm horse was one hundred bushels of wheat. Wheat was then worth two to three dollars per bushel so a good horse was worth two to three hundred

dollars. It was then a rather common occurrence to have horses stolen. By forming some such organization and by co-operation, it was thought that this menace to our farmers could be broken up.

Since the records of the association are no longer available, it is impossible to give exact data as to memberships. It is known, however, that the membership increased in the beginning of the eighties to several hundred active members. The membership fee was one dollar and the annual dues were twenty-five cents.

A member had the privilege of entering one or several horses. These were his prize horses, the ones most likely to be stolen. Some farmers had practically all their horses entered. The secretary of the organization kept the books and made a careful record of each horse entered, as to color, color pattern or any peculiar color marks about the head or limbs, age, height and weight, and any other characteristics that might aid in identifying the animal. The height was determined by the aid of a pole on which were marked the hands, a hand being considered equal to four inches. This was the unit used in measuring the height of the animal. To determine how many hands high a horse was, the measuring pole was placed near the front leg and a carpenter's square was placed on the shoulder of the horse. The branding of the horse completed the process of entering. A charge of twenty-five cents was made for each horse entered. The branding was done by a blacksmith by means of a branding iron. The blacksmith received six cents for branding a horse. The branding iron contained the letters S. C. and when heated to a red heat was pressed against the left flank until all the hair were burned off and the skin scorched after which the letters were clearly seen. The annual meeting was always held at Salem on the first Monday of January of each year. This was a gala day for the organization during its prosperous days, and brought together farmers and horse owners as well as horses from all parts of the eastern section of the county.

Whenever a horse that had been entered was stolen, eight riders were appointed by the secretary to go in search of the horse, and if possible to return the animal to its rightful owner and to apprehend the thief. The riders were sent out by two's, each armed with a horse pistol, two going to the north, two to the south, two to the east,

and two toward the west. They were provided with a complete description of the horse and were instructed to go at least fifty miles and even farther if they got any clues of the stolen animal. Most of the horses that were stolen were recovered. In many instances the riders gave the thief a merry chase. No evidence has been obtained that a thief was ever caught. It seemed most riders were satisfied to recover the stolen animal which was usually forsaken or abandoned by the thief when the riders were about to overtake him. This practice was carried on at the dead of night, usually a very dark night and frequently while raining. If the chase became too hot, the thief would part company with the horse and escape into the woods. In the closing years of the last century, horses became cheaper, and because of improved means of communication, especially the telephone, horse stealing was practically discontinued and the organization disbanded.

CHAPTER 14

Some Important Industries of the County

Let me but do my work from day to day
In field or forest at the desk or loom,
In roaring market place or tranquil room;
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray
This is my work; my blessing not my doom,
Of all who live, I am the only one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way.

—Henry Van Dyke

Rafting on the Susquehanna River

Rafting constituted a very large industry on the Susquehanna River about 1840 to 1890. Transportation by railroad and highways was limited during these years and about the only way to get timber to the market was by rafting. This was the time when the northern counties of the state were still covered with dense forests. The giant trees were felled, made into squared timber fastened together in the form of large rafts, and floated down the Susquehanna River. Most of the timber-making was done by contract work at so much per cubic foot. The men who did the work in these forest lands lived in shanties in the forests and did their own cooking. The day began at five o'clock in the morning. The breakfast consisted of buckwheat cakes and sausage, boiled potatoes, bread and butter, and coffee. The other meals of the day were similarly adapted to the hard life of the lumber men.

Before a tree was felled, heavy poles were laid crosswise in its path to prevent the tree from lying too flat on the ground to interfere with the cutting and squaring of the logs. Some of the raft timbers were fifteen inches by twenty-four inches square and from thirty feet to ninety feet in length. The large end of the timber was loaded on a sled while the smaller end was left to trail in the snow, and then it was dragged by ox-teams to the lowlands of the larger streams to await the spring freshets. This work was done during the winter months. To float a raft on the smaller streams, only about a dozen pieces of timber were placed side by side and fastened together. Upon reaching the river, the smaller rafts were coupled together to make larger rafts. These sections, called platforms, were about twenty feet wide. The length of a section depended on the length of logs, and the length of the raft on the number of sections. Some of the rafts were more than 300 feet in length and from eighteen feet to twenty-

four feet in width. At Shamokin Dam the rafts had to be "singled" to go through the chutes, and then afterwards lashed together again. It is said that it was not an uncommon sight along the Susquehanna River to see from ten to twenty rafts floating down the stream to sawmills located in the lower portions of the river valley. A news item for the year 1849 informs us that during the rafting season more than 2,500 rafts containing over 100,000,000 feet of lumber passed Selinsgrove during a period of twenty-six days. Logs weren't the only things rafted down the river. Even canal boats too large for the Pennsylvania Canal were rafted down the river to the bay, and from there taken to the larger canals.

The raft was steered by heavy oars fifty and more feet in length. Each raft had two steersmen in front, two behind, and a pilot. Each pilot had his special channel just as a railroad man has his special runs. The pilot had to know the river, the falls and rapids, the rocks, the bridges, and the narrow channels, because he was in complete charge of the raft. He was stationed at the front oars, and the steersmen in the front and behind carried out his commands. A pilot would take the raft from one place to the next, where he would be succeeded by another pilot, and so on until the end of the journey. The men on the raft took turns in preparing the daily meals. A small collapsible shanty or shack in the center of the raft served as an eating and sleeping place for the crew. Sometimes this shanty had to be removed in case of low bridges along the route. Not all of the rafts had shanties. Those men who made only short trips stopped over night at a hotel situated on the river bank. In fact many private residences along the river served as inns and lodging places for these raftsmen. The hotels at Shamokin Dam and along the Blue Hill, the "Drag" at Dundore, the hotels at Independence, McKees Half Falls, and Liverpool were well patronized by the raftsmen, who spent their time eating, drinking and making merry. These hotels did a thriving business during the heyday of rafting. These inns and taverns sprang into existence along the river front largely because of rafting, and just as rapidly disappeared with the decline of the rafting industry. When the demand for timber was very great, the rafts kept running day and night, stopping only for the purpose of replenishing their larders.

The raftsmen were frequently rough characters, heavy

drinkers, uncouth in their personal appearance, and not much given to refined and cultured ways of living. They were adventurers of the first order. They usually were clothed in fur caps, heavy red checked woolen shirts, trousers coated with pitch, and high-topped leather boots, as a protection against the sleet, snow and the cold winds. As a group they were hard-workingmen, scrupulously honest, and possessed a keen sense of justice and fair play in all their social relationships. They paid every penny of the cost of whatever food they got along the way. The life of the raftsmen was dangerous to say the least, the exposures to inclement weather constant, and the demands upon health and body energy, most exacting. The river rapids and falls, the hidden rocks, the dams and bridge piers, and weather conditions made it that way. Although rafting was dangerous, it likewise proved unprofitable at times because of the destruction of the raft or because the lumber had to be sold at a loss. Sometimes an entire raft would be so broken up by a collision with river rocks or a bridge pier that the entire raft was lost or only a few logs could be salvaged. These raft disasters often provided a profitable means of business for the "Algerines" who were constantly on the alert on the river fronts for these loose or stray logs.

It was often rather difficult to get the raft started, and about equally difficult to get it stopped since its massiveness enabled it to move even faster than the flow of the river. To land a raft, one of the men leaped ashore with the rope, and ran down the stream until he found a suitable tree or snubbing post to which he could attach the rope. A raft was seldom stopped with one hitch. When the tie-up man's running hitch played out, the man would be a length of a rope behind. The raftsmen would have to run down stream until he caught up with his crewmates, when the rope would be tossed to him again. After the raft had reached its destination and had been delivered to its purchasers, the raftsmen boarded the trains with their equipment for the return trip to the forest lands to prepare for the next trip. Sawmills turned the timber into lumber of all kinds, and then canal boats carried this lumber to the markets in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

Bridge Building

Bridge building was a rather extensive industry carried on by a corps of men from Selinsgrove and vicinity

from fifty to seventy-five years ago. At one time or another about 100 residents of Selinsgrove, for the most part of the Isle of Que, were engaged in this hazardous enterprise. Many of them at first were canal-boat builders, and as such possessed the necessary knowledge and skills for almost every type of construction work. One of their early projects was the building of the wooden bridge across the mile-wide Susquehanna River at Selinsgrove. The contract price for the bridge was \$45,000. Work was begun on the bridge in June, 1870, and in fifteen months the work was completed. The first train crossed the bridge August 11, 1871. The eight spans over the main river channel were burned January 17, 1877, despite every effort to save the bridge from complete destruction by the fire companies of Selinsgrove and Sunbury. Undaunted these same men had it replaced by another wooden bridge by the early spring of 1878. Fires were rather frequent on this wooden bridge. They were caused by the burning coals dropping from the locomotive fire-boxes. As a necessary precaution, water barrels were placed at each pier, and watchmen examined the bridge after each crossing of a train.

The remarkable accomplishment in the building of the first river bridge in 1870 gave these builders a great reputation. They began to be employed in wooden-bridge building, not only in Pennsylvania but in the New England States, New York, Ohio, and other states. In course of time these wooden structures began to be replaced by iron structures to eliminate the fire hazards and to make possible a greater carrying capacity for the railroads. The days of the wooden-bridge builders appeared to be numbered, their leader had met death in a bridge accident in Maryland, and the Iron Age had come to the forefront. However, it didn't take these bridge-builders long to discern that the same principles were operative in bridge building irrespective of whether the materials used were wood or iron, so they became iron-bridge builders and skyscraper constructionists instead. At the time, the erection of buildings, many stories high, in the larger cities became the rule of the day. There wasn't any need for carpenter tools except for the building of trestles and false construction work. Hot rivets were now used in place of nails and cables instead of ropes. The men had to operate wrenches, sledge hammers, cranes, and hydraulic hoists. When the contract for the construction of the iron

railroad bridge was let in 1892, some of the former bridge builders were employed.

The wooden railroad bridge was of the arch type; the iron bridges across Penn's Creek and the Susquehanna River were of the trestle and truss types. In the construction of bridges generally, it was frequently found that the building of trestles was impractical and bridge piers were out of the question on account of the depth of the water or the height of the bridge in order to maintain the railroad grade and to permit the clearance of the ships' masts. To meet this modern need, engineers devised the suspension and cantilever bridges. Such bridges have a local interest since local bridge builders helped in the construction of the Brooklyn Suspension Bridge in 1883, in the original Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge in 1883, and in the Quebec Cantilever Bridge in 1917.

The wages of these bridge builders in the days of wood construction work were considered quite high. The laborers were paid twenty cents per hour for a ten-hour day with time and half-time for working on Sunday. The room and board usually cost \$2.50 per week. During the early days of the iron construction period, the wages were fifty cents an hour for an eight-hour day with time and half-time for overtime and double time for Sunday. As would be expected, bridge building was an exceedingly hazardous occupation and many of the bridge builders were crippled or lost their lives in the bridge accidents. For example, when the almost-completed iron trestle bridge over the North Branch of the Susquehanna River at Mifflinville, Columbia County, collapsed December 10, 1907, four Snyder County bridge builders lost their lives. Space will not permit including the names of all these bridge builders. It has to be said that they were the heroes of peacetime days just as the men in uniform were the heroes of war days. They were a brave, courageous, even daring group of craftsmen who made their contribution to the engineering achievements of former generations.

Joseph V. Gemberling and his two sons proved to be the master carpenters and craftsmen of the days of the wooden bridges. As superintendents of groups of workmen, the names of two brothers deserve to be mentioned, Newton P. Jarrett and Milton T. Jarrett. In 1903 Newton P. Jarrett was the superintendent for the American Bridge Company in the construction of twenty-eight

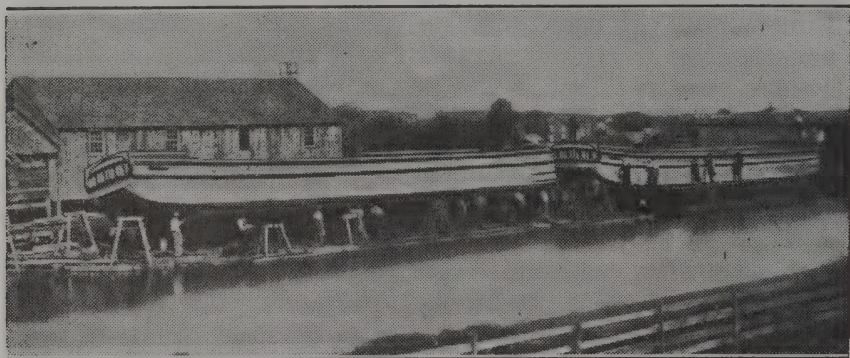
railroad bridges for the English Government in East Africa between Mombasa on the Indian Ocean and Lake Victoria—a distance of 380 miles. Mr. Jarrett finished the job in the scheduled time of eighteen months. Milton T. Jarrett followed the bridge-building craft as a superintendent for a number of years in thirty-eight different states of the union. Instead of having been assigned to some specific territory, he was given particularly difficult tasks or tasks that had to be completed in record time. Two illustrations are given to show the nature of his work. The American Bridge Company had contracted the building of a bridge in Northern Minnesota with a penalty of \$100 a day for every day after a certain date until the job was finished. Jarrett arrived on the scene the day the penalty became operative. At that time not a piece of iron had as yet been put into place. He completed the construction in fifteen days and kept the penalty at \$1,500. In the construction of the original suspension bridge at Niagara Falls, Jarrett served as the superintendent of construction of the bridge section from the Canadian side. The particularly difficult task was the joining of the two sections from the opposite shores in mid-stream. The two 480-foot sections had to be locked together with a twelve-inch steel pin from the up-stream to the down-stream sides of the bridge. Working hundreds of feet in the air, the bridge builders inserted the ponderous pins without difficulty. The alignment of the two self-supporting projections across the Niagara River had practically been perfect.

Boat Building

The building of the Pennsylvania Canal brought about a new industry for a number of the towns located along the course of the canal. Boat building can be considered one of the oldest industries, but the coming of the canal made a decided change in the kind of boats needed for the transportation of freight and passengers. An entirely new type of boat had to be constructed for use on these artificial water ways. The result was that canal-boat building plants sprang up at Marietta, Middletown, Dauphin, New Buffalo, Liverpool, Selinsgrove, Espy, and at other places along the way. Each make of canal boat appears to have had its own peculiar characteristic so that it became customary to refer to it as an "Espy boat", a "Selinsgrove boat", or a "New Buffalo boat". The Isle

of Que was a busy boat-building center for the Pennsylvania and Erie Canals.

There were at least three canal-boat construction yards in Selinsgrove and the immediate vicinity. The first yard was known as the Colsher and Moyer's boat yard. This yard was located on the site of the "Little Norway" skating rink of today and extended directly from Pine Street south to Bough Street. The J. Howard Burns family got possession of this plot of land in 1938. On an old sketch dating back to 1858, the plot is portrayed as a small body of water in what was formerly known as Charlestown. The basin and boat yard extended over two blocks from Pine Street through Walnut and Bough, bounded on the east by Penn's alley and on the west by



Keller's Boat Yard at Selinsgrove

Penn's Creek. The basin was located in the northern portion of this area. The Pennsylvania Canal was located next to Penn's alley. The second yard was owned and operated by George W. Keller and was located south of Bough Street. The third boat yard, or the lower one was owned and operated by Colsher and Moyer. All three yards were located on the west side of the canal, between the canal and Penn's Creek. The first and second-named yards built boats for the Pennsylvania Canal and the third yard built boats for use on the Erie Canal in New York. In the spring of the year, these boats were launched and flitted together, taken down the river in the first freshet to tidewater, and thence to New York harbor and up the Hudson River to their destination. Whether the cost of construction or the superior workmanship entered into the fact that these boats were built so far away from their place of use, nobody seems to know.

There appears to have been a fourth yard along the west side of Penn's Creek about 1,000 feet north of the now extinct "Isle of Que Mills" that stood at the foot of Mill Street until it was abandoned about 1920. It appears that the canal boats were built along the basin formed by the dam of the mill. There is a depression in the bank today that easily could have been the site of this boat yard. No details of it are known with respect to its owner and builder, the type of boats built, or just when it was in operation. It is just one more of those things that have become lost in the course of the years. The canal boats brought grains of various kinds to the mill. It appears that these boats were turned into Penn's Creek through a gate in the "Maine Saw-Mill" gut or basin, and then floated down to the flour mill for loading and unloading the cargoes.

The canal boats were about eighty-five feet long, fifteen feet wide, and from eight to ten feet high. A boat weighed approximately fifty tons and had a cargo capacity of 130 tons. Two or three mules to pull one boat was the rule. These mules were hitched tandem to each other. A boat crew usually consisted of two men and a boy—the captain, bowsman, and the mule driver. The captain's wife was the cook on the boat. The boats were named for the town where they were built, for their general shape such as the "tooth-pick" or the "bull-head", for the kind of cargo they carried such as the "store-boat", for the name of the owner, or by a certain number. From four to six boats were built annually at each of the first and second yards, giving employment at each of these yards to from fifteen to twenty men. The average wage paid was \$1.37 per day. From thirty to sixty boats were built annually at the third yard. At this yard employment was provided the year round for 75 to 150 men. A shed with a sloped roof covered the basin so that the workmen could carry on their work with full protection from the weather at all seasons of the year.

The launching of a boat at the upper boat yards always attracted a large crowd of people. When the launching took place, the crowd would assemble to watch the boats as they would slide down the skids into the water. These skids consisted of logs or beams smoothly dressed and greased with a mixture of soap and tallow. They extended from the stocks upon which the boats were built down to the water's edge. When everything had been

properly arranged, the boat was raised by means of wedges and other mechanical appliances from the stocks to the skids. The weight of the boat rested upon two crown wedges, one at the bow of the boat and the other at the stern. At a given signal, the wedges were knocked out by means of sledges, and amidst the cheers of the people, the boat would leave its lofty position in the yard at great speed and strike the water with great force, sending a column of water into the air for a considerable height.

There was no launching of the boats as such at the third or lowest boat yard because the boat yard was of an entirely different type from the other two yards. Here the boat keels were laid in the basin at right angles to the canal instead of being parallel. These basins or docks were shut off from the canal by gates to keep out the water. The boats were then built level with the bottom of the canal, and when completed, the gates were raised, the water flowed in and raised the new boat to the level of the canal. It could then be floated out without any particular trouble.

The end of local boat building came around the late seventies and the early eighties with the decline in the use of the canal. The canal, extending through the Susquehanna Valley, was officially abandoned as an operating agency January 1, 1901, and the water was drained from its channel that spring. Practically all traces of the existence of these canal-boat building yards have disappeared, but definite remains of the canal itself may easily be observed all along the course.

Lumbering

Lumbering in the county years ago was a very extensive and lucrative industry. The hills and valleys and the slopes of Shade and Jacks Mountains were covered with fine virgin forests. With the inroads of the settlements, these forests gave way to the woodman's axe. The chief industry of the early settlers was clearing the forest and tilling the soil. At first the trees were ruthlessly felled and burned primarily to clear the land for agricultural purposes. Timber was too plentiful to be considered of great value.

Conditions are far different today. The county is practically depleted of large trees. Virgin timber so common 150 years ago has now almost become an object of curiosity. People travel miles from far and near to see it.

About the only virgin forest left in Snyder County today is found in the western end of the county along Swift Run, near Troxelville, in Spring Township, popularly known as the "tall timbers" but officially called the Snyder-Middle-swarth State Park. Lumbering has become all but an extinct industry in the county. Very seldom can a saw-mill be seen any more in it, and the hauling of logs to a saw-mill by wagon or truck has become a rare occurrence.

Lumbering at one time was a large industry in the county. Saw-mills constituted a leading industry and furnished employment for many people. Any sizable stream had its full proportionate number of saw-mills. It is said that there was a time when the Mahantango Creek flowing through Perry Township furnished, together with its tributaries, the water-power for fourteen saw mills and twelve grist-mills. A similar statement could undoubtedly be made about each one of the other larger streams of the county. Between 1814 and 1860 there were listed sixteen saw-mills in Center Township which was then composed of the territory now constituting Center, Franklin, and a part of Middlecreek Township. While the vast majority of these early saw-mills were driven by water-power, there were steam saw-mills in the county as early as 1850. The Maine Saw Mill was located north of Selinsgrove, opposite that portion of the town formerly known as Sweet Hope. It received its name from the fact that its proprietors came from the state of Maine. This saw-mill was built in 1850, was operated by steam, consisted of a gang saw with from six to fifteen saws, and employed about thirty men. Like so many other saw-mills, the scarcity of lumber led to its abandonment in the nineties. In 1907 the property and grounds were sold to the State Realty Company at the time of the large land purchases in Monroe Township. The passing of the Maine saw-mill is typical of saw-mills generally throughout the country. Shade and Jacks Mountains and their neighboring hills were exceedingly rich in timber at one time, but by the closing decade of the nineteenth century there was a noticeable decline in the lumber business. Many of the saw-mills had to be abandoned because there wasn't any longer an adequate number of large timber tracts.

It ought to be stated that the timber on the mountains remained until last because the mountain land could not be used for farming purposes, and there was no satisfactory way to get the lumber to the markets. When the

Middle Creek Valley Railroad began to operate in 1871, the means of transportation of lumber became available. Coal companies sought forest lands for cheap mine props and lumber for other use, and Jacks and Shade Mountains provided this opportunity. The Shamokin Coal operators purchased much of the Shade Mountain land and began removing the timber, and this continued over a period of about twenty-five years. Later the lands were leased to private operators and the timber removed at so much per thousand feet. Hundreds of lumber jacks with axe and saw worked day in and day out. Teams dragged the logs from the mountain-sides to saw-mills and stave-mills. For the most part these mills were located at the base of the mountain, but sometimes they were moved up the mountain side. There shanties were erected and the men housed and fed. In these cases the staves and lumber had to be hauled down the mountain.

The trailing of the logs down the mountain side demanded the building of mountain roads which often proved a formidable task because of the huge boulders, large trees, and the steep mountain sides. Sometimes chutes were built at the steepest parts extending from the summit to a plateau or to the base for sliding the logs. Chutes, however, didn't always prove very practical since the logs tended to get out of control and get broken. The more practical way was to drag the logs to a mountain road and then haul them with a two-wheeled cart to the railroad for transportation.

The lumbering industry on Jacks Mountain likewise began in the early seventies on lands obtained on warrants and owned by private individuals, and practically terminated in the opening years of the twentieth century. The lumbering was carried on mainly on the Penn's Creek side of the mountain. The trees were mostly yellow pine, white pine, and hemlock. Tramways were built to transport the timber to the saw-mills at the foot of the mountain. These tramways on the mountain slopes were operated by gravity, but on the level distances they were drawn by mules. As many as fifty and more men roomed and boarded in shanties in the mountain areas at the time when the lumbering business was at its height. The standard wage for a day's labor was one dollar per day. The lumber was shipped to distant markets on the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad.

The Coal-dredging Industry

The coal-dredging industry obviously applies only to the creeks and rivers that drain the Pennsylvania hard coal fields. The principal rivers are the Susquehanna, the Schuylkill, and the Lehigh; some of the creeks are the Shamokin, Mahanoy, Wiconisco, and the Swatara. In mining coal and getting it ready for the market, much of it was often lost, and in course of time found its way into the creeks and rivers. In the early part of the coal industry, small sizes of coal were not considered of great value. Consequently, they were discarded on culm banks or were washed into the creeks and rivers. With improved facilities for burning coal, the smaller pieces assumed a practical and economical value and this led to ways and means of salvaging these smaller pieces from the beds of creeks and rivers. Coal-dredging became a very important industry in the Susquehanna River in the early nineties because of the great demand for all sizes of coal for fuel in the mills, factories, railroads, and in homes. Just as soon as it became known that the dredged coal could be used for fuel to good advantage, the demand for river coal increased very much. In 1909 coal-dredging operators reported to the Geological Survey an output of 107,788 net tons; in 1940, they reported 943,944 net tons. Because coal of all sizes began to assume greater economic value, it was much more carefully conserved at the source and smaller quantities found their way into the streams for dredging purposes.

The dredged material from the beds of streams was necessarily a mixture of stone, gravel, sand, and mud, and this mixture had to be cleaned and gotten ready for the market. This cleaning was accomplished by utilizing a principle of nature that if coal, rock, and slate are placed in an agitated mixture of sand and water having a specific gravity greater than coal and less than rock or slate, the coal would stay at the top while the rock and slate would sink to the bottom. In a similar fashion, when the culm is washed into creeks and rivers, the coal being lighter, moves faster down the stream while the other material of slate and rock being heavier, is left behind in the journey down the stream. Wherever the current is retarded, the coal is deposited on the bed of the stream forming a bed of coal. This may occur also in an eddy near the shore or even in the middle of the stream where the current for some reason or other is retarded. The location of such

coal beds is a simple matter of experience or it may be by what is known as the pole method. A man in a boat uses a pole to feel out the bottom of the river to find out where the coal bed is located.

Hand digging was the early method to recover the coal from the river. It probably was started about 1800. The first coal recovered in this manner was for the individual's own use. The operator usually had a small boat, a small screen, and did the cleaning of the coal, standing in the water. The screen had a short handle which was used to fill the screen with coal and dirt. Then by shaking the filled screen in the water, the fine dirt escaped while the coal remained in the screen and was dumped into the boat. The hand-digger of today has a much improved system. He has a large flat or boat which is anchored in the river facing up stream and the work is done from the flat. The handle to the screen, instead of being three or four feet long is from ten to fourteen feet long, which enables the work to be done from the flat or boat. It also enables the hand digger to work in deeper water and also does not confine his work to the warmer portion of the year. He can work spring, fall, and even during the winter months when ice does not interfere. The sizes of coal taken by the hand digger are only the larger sizes from about pea to stove size. The tonnage recovered by hand is not very large. The exact amount is unknown since no record as a rule is kept, and the coal is usually consumed by the man who recovers it.

Just as soon as the bed of coal has been located, the coal dredge is moved to that location, and maintained in that position by means of a long rope on a winch fastened to the dredge and to an anchor dropped to the bottom of river several hundred feet up stream. The typical dredge is generally a flat or barge type on which is mounted a centrifugal pump with an intake pipe usually about six inches in diameter. The power is furnished by either a steam boiler and engine or by some type of power unit using gasoline, fuel oil, or coal oil. The body of the dredge is usually from forty to fifty feet long and from ten to fourteen feet wide, and about two feet in depth. Generally the dredge has no motive power of its own and has to be moved by a tow-boat or pusher. In the working area, the dredge is moved by means of winches to which the anchor is connected by ropes. The tow-boat or pusher is usually from thirty to forty feet long and from eight to ten feet

wide, and as a rule is powered by means of a gasoline power unit or a steam boiler and engine to turn the paddle wheels at the stern of the boat. It is used to move the dredge about and to take the flatboats loaded with coal from the side of the dredge to the unloading point on the shore. The pusher man should be an experienced river man in order to keep the loaded flat boats from lodging on rocks or sand bars in the river. In short, he should be well acquainted with the deep channels in the river in which he has to operate. The coal is drawn through the suction pipe by the centrifugal pump and passes over a downward pitching screen, elevated five to eight feet above the floor of the dredge. This screen is usually from two to three feet wide and is known as a riffle trough. The water and coal rushing down over the screen allows the sand and other fine dirt to pass through the screen back into the river. The coal passes into a pocket from which it is taken by a scraper line and conveyed to the flats used to convey the coal to the shore for unloading.

The bucket type dredge has practically disappeared because pump system has proved itself more adapted under all conditions. The bucket dredge was operated on an endless chain system. The buckets were fastened to the chain on an arm or elevator which was lowered into the river. The buckets picked up the coal and sand, dropped them into a screen which revolved in the water allowing the sand and fine dirt to escape through the wire cloth while the coal was deposited in a pocket where the scraper line picked it up and conveyed it to the flat or barge used in the dredging operations.

There are different methods in use to unload flats. The scraper line generally is used. This is an endless chain which has the scrapers attached to it and travels in a trough which usually reaches from the top of a bin down to the flats at the shore line. From the bin, the coal is loaded on trucks by means of a hole cut in the bottom of the bin which is opened and closed as needed by means of a sliding floor. A large portion of the coal taken from the river receives no further preparation than washing and screening on the dredge. Concentrating tables are used more extensively along creeks where the action of the water does not clean or separate the coal from the foreign materials. The table cleaning method removes anything that is more dense or more heavy than coal. The tables used in cleaning coal are about six feet wide and about

sixteen feet long. Across the deck in a diagonal direction are tacked wood strips about one-fourth inch wide and from one to two inches apart, although these dimensions may vary depending on the amount of foreign material to be removed from the coal.

The table is adjustable. The incline to which it is set is usually about one-eighth of an inch to the foot lengthwise, and moves with a reciprocating end-wise motion. There is also a slight pitch or inclination along the short side or width of the table which is the adjustable part of the table. Coal and water are delivered from the feed box to the high side of the table where they are distributed evenly through holes or openings to the upper side of the table. The coal, which is lighter, floats over the riffles, while the refuse or heavier material is caught in the parallel slots and is worked by the reciprocating or end motion to the end of the table when it falls off into the waste trough. This method of cleaning coal is rather expensive unless operated on a large scale. The smaller or individual dredgers do not use this method. They usually dredge their coal where the action of the water in the river has performed this process for them. River coal operators have followed the practice of mine operators in grading or sizing the coal on the grounds that a uniform-sized coal gives better service.

The amount of coal recovered by dredging operations has increased to a large extent. The Susquehanna River ranks very high in coal production throughout the state. It also is the field of operation for Snyder County dredges. According to geological records, the total amount of coal reclaimed from the Susquehanna, Lehigh, and Schuylkill Rivers and their tributaries from 1923 to 1940 was 13,233,044 tons with a total value of \$12,299,014, of which amount the Susquehanna River alone yielded 10,237,243 tons with an approximate value of \$9,250,000. There is no available record of the amount of coal dredged in Snyder County alone, but there is no doubt that the county dredgers produced their proportionate share. The number of persons engaged in the coal dredging industry of the county is varying according to the conditions that may handicap or further the interest in the industry. Among these conditions that handicap are the extremely low water in the summer, the lack of high water in the winter and spring needed to wash the coal down from the upper waters, and the cold weather and ice during the

winter. The very opposite conditions would be in favor of the dredging industry. An interesting inquiry concerns the life of the industry. We may reasonably assume that the hundreds of thousands of tons of culm lying in piles at the bottom of creeks and rivers will be substantial evidence that the dredging industry will continue for a long time to come.

The Iron Ore Industry in the County

One of the almost-forgotten industries of the county is the mining of iron ore. From the color of some of the rocks and soil, the early settlers probably inferred the presence of iron ore in them. We have no knowledge who first discovered iron ore in Snyder County nor do we know when it was discovered. Linn* states that iron ore was known to exist in the ridges of Buffalo Valley as early as 1824. Perhaps iron ore was first recognized about this time in the area now known as Snyder County. The iron ore in Snyder County is chiefly of the hematite variety (Fe_2O_3). The first geological survey made by Pennsylvania in 1839-1840 and published in 1858 gave general authoritative information regarding the wide distribution of iron ore in the state. No doubt the Hon. Ner Middlewarth had knowledge of this survey because of his interest in locating iron ore beds and in the building of the Beaver Furnace in 1847-1848. In 1874 a second geological survey of Pennsylvania was made. This survey covered all of Snyder County and was published in 1878. The survey gives an account of the outcrops of the ore from the western boundary of the county along the south flank of Jacks Mountain, crossing into Union County north of Centerville (Penns Creek), and continuing along the Shamokin Mountains (New Berlin) to Winfield. It also includes the outcrops of iron ore on both sides of the Shade Mountain. The iron ore was never developed to any extent along Jacks Mountain. Its greatest development was confined to the ridges on the north side of Shade Mountain. The iron ore industry in the county was begun on a large scale about 1873 by a company from Shamokin.

After these iron ore deposits were located, the question arose whether the ore deposits were of sufficient quality to make mining a profitable industry, and if so, how the iron ore could best be gotten to the market. The iron ore of the county may be divided into three grades—good,

*Annals of Buffalo Valley

medium, and poor. The good ore contained from forty to fifty per cent iron; the medium, from thirty to forty per cent; and the poor, less than thirty per cent. Ore beds did not always contain a uniform quality. Often some beds were good at the outcrop but became poorer as the mining progressed. The thickness of the ore bed varied very much. The bird's-eye ore ranged in thickness from three to four inches to over twelve inches. An average of seven to eight inches was considered satisfactory. The bird's-eye ore was mined chiefly in the eastern part of the county around Kreamer, Meiser, and Freeburg. The iron ore in the western part of the county was mainly of the soft fossil kind, occurring in layers of twelve to twenty-eight inches in thickness and was mined around Paxtonville, Beavertown, and Beaver Springs.

The difficulty in mining iron ore varied according to the hardness of the ore. Sometimes the outcrops were soft, but farther in the ridges the ore became hard, sometimes so hard that mining it proved unprofitable. The dip of ore bed was also an important factor in the mining operation with respect to the method employed. In the county, four different ways of mining were used. These were: (1) surface, open trench, or strip mining, (2) drift or gangway mining, (3) shaft mining, (4) tunnel mining. So far as known, the first method was used only near Paxtonville. At this place was found an ore sandstone about thirteen feet in thickness with the lower eight feet rich in iron. This method of mining was soon discontinued.

All the mining in the Freeburg, Kreamer, Meiser, and Middleburg areas and much of the mining in the Paxtonville, Beavertown, and Beaver Springs areas was by drifts or gangways. These gangways were driven in on the sides of the ravines where the ore was exposed. The drift was usually about six feet wide at the bottom and five feet wide at the top, and about five and one-half feet high. It was large enough so that a narrow gage track could be laid for the transportation of the ore. The small trucks would hold about a ton of iron ore. The length of the gangway varied with the hardness of the ore and the dip of the rock. Sometimes it was less than one hundred yards long and in other situations it might be several hundred yards in length. In some ravines there might be several, perhaps a dozen parallel drifts. The distance between the drifts would be determined largely by the dip

of the rock. The iron ore was taken out in consecutive rooms called breasts which were about eighteen feet wide. The length of the breasts was determined by the dip of the ore bed and would extend from one gangway to the next. The mining process was an advancing one, all ore being taken out near the outcrop first before a new room would be started.

The third type of mining was called shaft mining. If the strata of rock containing the ore formed a bowl-shaped area, a shaft was sunk near the center of this downward bend until the bed of ore was struck. Then gangways and breasts would be run in suitable directions from the bottom of the shaft. This required a hoisting outfit to lift the ore to the surface. The fourth method of mining was called tunnel mining. In this case a tunnel was run into the side of the hill until the ore bed was reached. Sometimes this method led to failure. Often several tunnels had to be dug into the sides of the ridges until success was attained.

One of the tools used for mining was a pick with a short handle. One end of the pick was pointed, the other end had a blade about one and one-half inches wide, which had to be kept quite sharp. A shovel, a bar, hammer, a drill, and powder, were also needed. A blacksmith was needed at the mines to do the necessary repair work and to sharpen the tools. A place for the storage of the powder had to be provided. At Kreamer and Meiser the overlying shale had to be loosened by blasting. This shale was kept in the mine and used as a means of support of the mine roof, leaving a passage-way only for the removal of the ore. Where the bed was nearly level, the breasts were shorter because the ore would be taken out on both sides of the gangway. This made mining more difficult, but where there was a perceptible dip of from five to ten degrees, the ore was transferred down the slope to the truck by small trucks built for the purpose. When the dip was from ten to fifteen degrees, it made mining rather easy because the ore could then slide by gravity down the slope to the gangway. When the dip had a slope of twenty to thirty degrees, it was more difficult and more dangerous to mine. When the dip was still greater, it made mining practically impossible.

The cost of mining ore varied according to conditions such as the thickness of the bed, the quality of the ore, the hardness of the ore, the overlying and underlying

rock, the dip of the rock, the expense in opening a mine, and the royalty. This royalty varied from fifteen to fifty cents per ton. Sometimes the roof was weak and sagged, then props had to be used as additional supports. Mining was considered more than just ordinary labor. Mining had to be learned. An apprentice received about seventy-five cents per day for an eight-hour day. After having become a skilled miner, a man received from thirty-five to forty dollars per month. This appeared to have been the average pay throughout the county. The expense of getting the iron ore to the market was considerable, depending on the distance to the furnace or market and the condition of the roads. At Kreamer and Meiser the cost was from thirty to fifty cents per ton. The general expense through this region was from sixty cents to one dollar when the distance was from two to four miles, and more than a dollar when the distance was greater. The chief reason why the iron ore industry was never more developed in the Freeburg section was because all transportation of the iron ore had to be by wagon, and long distance hauling by wagon proved very expensive. It is evident that if the Selinsgrove and North Branch had been built, that valley would have shared to a greater extent in the benefits of the iron ore industry. The building of the Middlecreek Valley Railroad in 1871 proved a great help in developing the mining industry in that valley since the railroad provided additional and better means of transporting the iron ore to the markets and smelting furnaces. Thousands of tons of iron ore were hauled from the mines by wagons to shipping points on this railroad such as Kreamer, Meiser, Middleburg, Paxtonville (Benfer), Beavertown, and Beaver Springs and then transported by the railroad to the furnaces at Danville, Bloomsburg, and other places in central Pennsylvania.

Iron-ore Smelting Furnaces

There were several smelting furnaces that were accessible to the iron ore industry of Snyder County. Smelting the iron ore greatly simplified the transportation problem. The Old Beaver Furnace at Paxtonville was built by the Hon. Ner Middleswarth, Jacob Kern, Daniel Kern, and John C. Wilson, and was operated by them from 1848 to 1856 when it was destroyed by an explosion. A good quality of charcoal pig-iron was produced. The pig-iron was hauled a distance of about fourteen miles to Selinsgrove where it was loaded on canal boats and ship-

ped to different iron works throughout the state. The Beaver Furnace was an old-fashioned blast furnace. The stack of the furnace was built of stone. In 1856 Ner Middleswarth bought the plant, operated it for awhile, and then sold it to a group of men: Dr. Levi Rooke, Jesse Walter, and Nutting & Francis, who operated it from 1863 to 1866 when it was closed permanently. The furnace was located in a ravine through which flowed a small mountain stream which furnished the power to operate the plant. A supposed supply of iron ore was believed to be near-by, a limestone ridge was close at hand to furnish the needed flux, and the mountain could provide all the charcoal. All these conditions seemed very favorable to insure success. And yet the Old Beaver Furnace did not operate successfully over a long period of time. There were several reasons for this. Not the least was the fact that the iron deposits within a short distance from the furnace proved disappointing and probably there was connected with it a certain amount of poor management or mismanagement.

There were two other furnaces, located just outside the county, to which much iron ore was hauled from the Snyder County mines. The one furnace was located at Winfield, and was known as the Union or Dry Valley Furnace. This furnace was built by Beaver, Geddis, Marah & Company, in 1853-1854, just about the time of the formation of Snyder County. Later Dr. Levi Rooke of Winfield became the chief spirit in promoting the iron business at that place. The other furnace was located about three miles east of Lewistown on the Kishacoquillas Creek, about one mile from the base of Jacks Mountain at a place called Logan in Mifflin County, and was managed by the Logan Iron and Steel Company. It was built in 1862. Some of the ore mined in the western end of the county was hauled to this furnace. In order to produce a ton of pig-iron, it required about 5,200 pounds of a good grade of iron ore and 207 bushels of charcoal. The daily output of pig-iron varied from seven to nine tons or from forty-three to fifty tons per week.

The iron ore industry in Snyder County began about 1845 and continued for about forty-five years. About 1890 the industry began to decline. One mine closed after another, because it was found no longer profitable to operate them. The county iron ore industry could no longer compete with the large and rich deposits of iron ore

from the Lake Superior region. This iron ore was transported by water over the Great Lakes, and then by railroad to Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Steelton, and Danville at prices that could not be met by the operators of the iron ore industry in Snyder County.

The Burning of Lime in Open Stacks and in Kilns

The burning of lime for commercial uses constituted a rather large industry a half-century or more ago in the limestone areas of Snyder County. The various uses of lime were chiefly for agricultural purposes, for whitewashing, and for plastering. Lime was also used in making mortars and cements for building purposes and in the manufacturing of artificial stone and glass. Farmers felt that the soil needed lime to insure good crops; the barn, outbuildings, and the paling fences around yard and garden as well as most of the interior of dwelling houses, had to be whitewashed to insure permanency and attractiveness; and no dwelling house was considered complete without plastering made out of slacked lime, hair, sand, and clay. Today nearly all of these needs are largely met by phosphates, paints, patent plastering, and by other commodities on the grounds that they are much more economical. Consequently the production of lime has become greatly diminished in quantity in line with this diminishing need for it.

A portion of the soil of Snyder County is limestone in nature and is underlaid with limestone rock. One of the limestone areas begins in Penn Township on the Phares Herman farm and extends in the form of a ridge westward to Kreamer, Middleburg, and the western portion of the county. Another limestone ridge is located immediately to the south of Freeburg, and extends westward through Perry and West Perry Townships. These areas furnished the lime used so extensively in the eastern portion of the county a good many years ago, and they are still furnishing it but in definitely diminished quantities.

In a limestone area, the rock is usually covered with top-soil sometimes to the depth of several feet or it may be an outcropping where the rock is arranged on an incline. The first thing to be done in quarrying is to remove completely this layer of the top-soil. In the quarries found on the land of the Phares Herman farm, there were found six layers of limestone rock which made good lime for agricultural purposes. Below these layers was

found a rock commonly known among the quarry workmen as glass stone which made excellent lime for whitewashing and plastering purposes. Underneath this glass stone were found successively two layers, one of yellow stone and another of stone broken or seemingly chipped into small pieces. Both of these two layers made good lime for agricultural use.

The limestone rock in the quarries could be made available for use only by the aid of explosives. Before dynamite came into common use, rock powder was employed for this purpose. Holes had to be drilled by hand into these layers of rock. Sometimes this was accomplished by one man operating a drill approximately six feet in length by alternately raising and dropping it until a hole of the desired depth had been made. The hand drill had to be kept constantly rotating in order to make possible the round hole. The accumulated dust in the hole had to be removed at frequent intervals by means of a scraper. At other times a shorter drill was employed. This drill was held firmly with both hands and was constantly rotated by one man while two men with stone hammers furnished the driving power by alternately striking the top end of the drill. In a layer of rock six feet in depth, the hole had to be about four feet deep. In preparation for the blasting, this hole was half-filled at first with rock powder, then a fuse, knotted at one end, and much frayed at the other, was lowered at the knotted end into the hole by means of a scraper, and then the hole was filled to another one-fourth of its depth with rock powder. The remaining one-fourth at the top was tamped with dry clay to prevent misdirection of the force of the blast. The fuse was lighted and in due time the explosion followed, resulting in the shattering of the rock. Frequently rock powder was then inserted in the broken cracks or seams, the fuse contacted with the powder, the seam or crack filled with dry sand, and then exploded in the usual way. This latter method was known as a sand blast.

Later on air drills were used in place of the slow and tedious hand-drills, and dynamite was substituted for the rock powder. A hole was punched into the end of the stick of dynamite by a smooth object such as a lead pencil. The cap was pinched fast to the fuse by something like a plier, and then inserted in the hole of the stick of dynamite. The entire thing was tied together and low-

ered into the drilled hole. The hole was then filled with fine dry ground, the fuse lighted, and the explosion followed. The rock was broken into pieces with stone-hammers varying in weight from twelve to sixteen pounds. The pieces were hauled by wheelbarrows to the kilns. A little later tracks were laid between the quarry and the kiln and trucks were used to transport the rock. A person can readily see that the quarrying of the limestone and the burning of the lime entailed considerable danger for the life and limb of the employees. More than one person lost his life in the quarry by the sliding or the dropping of rocks in the quarry, or by the blasting of rocks either by rock powder or dynamite, or even by neglecting to take the necessary precautionary measures of safety in the use of these high explosives. Even in the burning of the limestone, there was considerable danger on account of the escaping sulphur and carbonic acid gas. Sometimes the working men inhaled too much of this gas mixture with deleterious results, oftentimes terminating in death. Sometimes tramps found refuge during cold winter nights at or too near the lime kiln, and were asphyxiated while they slept.

Before kilns were used in burning lime, the lime was burned in heaps in the open field. A stack composed of layers of stone and coal was constructed just as a lime kiln was filled and then encased in clay. After the burning was finished, the coating of clay was raked off and the resulting lime was found ready for use. A description of a lime kiln necessarily follows. The ordinary kiln was about six feet in diameter and twenty feet in depth. It was cylindrical in shape and perpendicular in position from the top down but funnel-shaped toward the bottom. It was lined from the bottom upward for about one-half the distance to the top with sandstone and common mortar, and from there on to the top with fire brick and fire clay mortar. Formerly, the kiln had been lined all the way from the bottom to the top with sandstone. The lining lasted from six to eight years when the kiln had to be relined again. At the bottom of the kiln was a draw-hole about twenty-four by thirty inches in size. Bricks were placed along its sides to the height of the pocket and then an iron bar was inserted on each side upon which a plate of sheet iron was put in order to close partly the opening from below. Certain openings were needed below to insure a good draught to make effective burning possible.

The heat to burn the limestone was supplied by coal and wood placed at the bottom of the kiln. The fire was started below with materials consisting of two wheelbarrows of wood and one wheelbarrow of buckwheat coal, followed by a layer of two wheelbarrows of limestone. Successive layers of stone and coal were added until the top was reached. These successive layers usually began with two layers of stone of three wheelbarrows each, mixed with one and one-half wheelbarrows of coal; then four wheelbarrows of stone with one and three-fourths wheelbarrows of coal; then five wheelbarrows of stone with two wheelbarrows of coal to the layer; then six wheelbarrows of stone mixed with two and one-half wheelbarrows of coal, and so on, depending somewhat on the intensity of the fire, until the top was reached. Usually even when the top was reached, the alternate layers of stone and coal, backed by rock, were continued in the form of a "head" a few feet higher. As the lime was burned and drawn out below, this top or head receded into the kiln proper.

It becomes quite evident under such an arrangement that the burning took place toward the top of the kiln, and the resulting lime settled toward the bottom. After the kiln had been filled to the top and was burning well, the drawing of the lime at the bottom could already be begun. This drawing occurred twice per day. About seventy bushels were usually drawn in the morning and fifty bushels after the noon hour. The drawing had to be discontinued when the lime was still hot, indicating that the burning process had not yet been fully completed. As the contents of the kiln sank with the drawing of the lime, the kiln had to be fed at least twice per day. The lime was usually loaded directly from the kiln on wagons but sometimes it was stored in sheds and sold to customers from there. Lime was sold at seven cents per bushel for agricultural purposes, ten cents per bushel for whitewashing, and eight cents per bushel for plastering. The lime was sold to farmers in Penn, Middlecreek, Jackson, Monroe, and Union Townships, as well as to persons in more distant places. Even some farmers of Northumberland County bought their lime at the Phares Herman's Lime kilns and then hauled the lime across the ice on the river during the winter months.

It is not the purpose to deal extensively with the chemistry of burning lime. This would be too far re-

moved from the subject. When limestone (CaCO_3) is burned, the carbonic acid escapes (CO_2), its weight is reduced to about one-half, and it assumes a lighter color. This product is known as quicklime, burned lime, or calcium oxide (CaO), and has a great affinity for water. When quicklime is handled with the bare hands, it attacks the flesh because of its acrid, caustic nature. When exposed to the air, it becomes a dry mealy powder called air-slacked lime; when water is added, great heat is produced, and slacked lime or a hydrated lime results (CaOH_2); when this lime is exposed again to the air, it hardens once more, the carbonic acid is slowly re-absorbed, and the lime finally returns to its original carbonate again. This is precisely what happens with the mortar made from lime which is used in the building of stone walls.

May we digress once more for a moment to say something about the need of putting lime on the soil for farming purposes. With respect to the use of lime as a fertilizer, there may be a difference of opinion among practical farmers but not among agricultural chemists. Years ago lime as a fertilizer was used in great quantities, but today comparatively little is used for that purpose. There is no doubt that certain kinds of soil, if not all kinds of soil, are greatly benefited by lime. Lime is probably not a direct plant food but its value is obtained rather in an indirect way. The lime acts chemically upon whatever organic matter may be in the soil and makes it more readily available for plants. In other words, lime doesn't add any plant food to the soil, it simply makes available more of the plant food that is already there. Lime in the soil is very much like the vitamins in our foods. Vitamins are not foods in themselves, they simply make available or usable more of the foods. It may readily be seen that the limestone even in a pulverized form can have no value on the soil because it cannot in that condition act on the organic matter in the soil. Only burned limestone can do this. Therefore limestone soil is in need of lime just as much as any other kind of soil. Old lime when exposed to the elements for a period of time cannot be of much value since it has lost much of its power or capacity to act chemically upon the organic matter found in the soil. There are other reasons why lime should be put on the soil at times. Whenever the soil is heavy and sour or acid-like, the alkaline lime neutralizes the soil and improves it by making it "sweet". Also when the soil con-

tains silicate of potash, the lime unites with the silica, and the potash is set free as a carbonate which is one of the most valuable of all of our plant foods.

A word ought to be said about the way lime was formerly put on the soil, and in what quantities it was used per acre of land. When the farmer hauled lime on his fields, he placed the lime on small heaps of three scoop shovels per heap, and when slaked by the air and rain, it was scattered over the top soil by means of a ground shovel. The farmer usually used an average of eighty bushels of lime per acre of land. Sometimes the farmer hauled his lime during the winter season in a bob-sled. In this case, he unloaded all of the lime on one massive heap, largely for storage purposes, and when the lime was thoroughly slaked he loaded it on a wagon and spread it upon the soil from the wagon. Whatever value lime alone may have for the production of good crops, the prevailing opinion among farmers is that plenty of lime and manure will insure good crops. When lime was still extensively used, farmers took every effort to put all the manure possible on their fields. Today there is a decided lack of manure on the soil because too much of the farm work today is done by machinery instead of by farm animals. The wheat, rye and oats straw, and the corn fodder are no longer changed into manure to the same extent as was done years ago. With combines and corn huskers, the straw and the fodder are left in the open fields, and by so doing their place as fertilizers has become greatly diminished. Grain farming no longer occupies the prominent place it did several generations ago. The farmer has shifted his interests to other ways of providing the necessary income for the family living.

The Manufacture of Brick

The Paxtonville Brick Plant

The site of the Paxtonville Brick Plant is on a farm of 225 acres originally bought in 1793 by John Adam Gift, the great grandfather of Aaron Kern Gift (1832-1908), a prominent resident of Franklin Township and county surveyor for a number of years. The shale land and plant site at the time of organization of the company were purchased from William Mitchell. The farm is located about one-fourth mile west of the village of Paxtonville or about

three miles west of Middleburg in Franklin Township. About the turn of the century it was discovered that a goodly portion of this farm land was "underlaid with a red shale of superior quality for brick-making purposes". Mr. W. W. Swengel, born and reared at Paxtonville, advocated as early as 1904 the erection of a brick plant at this place. With much enthusiasm and great confidence in the ultimate financial success of his proposed enterprise, he finally succeeded in enlisting the aid of certain capitalists in the erection of a brick plant. Mr. Swengel can be designated the originator, promoter, and enthusiastic supporter of the proposed enterprise. It ought to be said that without his efforts, undoubtedly there never would have been a brick plant at Paxtonville, at least not at that time.

A company was organized in 1907 known as the Sunbury Brick Company with a capital outlay of \$100,000, with the brick plant located on the Mitchell farm. The purpose of the company was the manufacturing of a high-grade brick. The plant first began to make dry-pressed brick in place of burned or baked brick, but the venture proved unsuccessful and was abandoned. The company was re-organized and certain individuals were designated to receive subscriptions for the sale of the stock. The company then began the construction of a large well-equipped plant for the manufacturing of bricks. The necessary bulidings were erected to make possible a continuous kiln, boiler room, gas plant, dry house, and an office building.

The main building is fifty-one feet by eighty-one feet in size and the continuous kiln 206 feet by sixty feet by thirteen feet. The dry house is fifty feet by 120 feet in size. The boiler room is forty-five feet by fifty feet. The kiln is constructed of stone, red brick, and fire brick. Its walls are three feet in thickness and are covered with earth. The kiln is divided into ten compartments each with a capacity of 110,000 bricks. The bricks are burned by gas which is manufactured from soft coal and is produced on the grounds. The main building or the machinery building contains a 225 horse-power Corliss engine for operating the machinery, and one 69 horse-power engine for generating the electricity for lighting the plant and for operating the tram cars. The dry house is constructed of concrete, and contains twelve tracks holding 240 cars, each car having a capacity of 550 bricks. The bricks are

dried on these cars. The boiler room contains two standard boilers, each with an eighty horse-power capacity. There is no smoke-stack to the boiler room since the draft from the boilers is produced by fans.

The shale pits are located several hundred yards south of the plant. They constitute an almost inexhaustible supply of the raw materials. The pits have natural drainage so that no pumping of the water becomes necessary at any time. A steam shovel is used to quarry the shale and to dump it upon the electrically driven tram-cars, to be conveyed to the clay-bins and dumped into the hoppers. From there the shale is carried by gravity to the crusher in the machine building where the shale is ground. It is then passed over wire screens to the brick machinery proper. Two Corliss engines of great horse-power are employed to operate the brick machinery. There are also two dynamos, one to provide the electric power for the transmission of the cars and the other for electric lighting. The boiler house contains three large boilers. There are a number of fire-proof dry-kilns in which the bricks are baked with producer gas, irrespective of the kind of weather or the season of the year. The kilns have ten chambers, each with a capacity of 110,000 bricks. A gas plant supplies the necessary heat for the burning of the bricks. The plant is adequately supplied with all types of modern brick-making machinery.

Coal is unloaded at the plant by means of a crane and is placed into bunkers with chutes leading to various fire-boxes. Most of the work of the plant is done under roof so that the working men can do their work in almost any kind of weather. Only the men engaged in excavating the shale are exposed to the weather, and even this becomes necessary only for about two days per week. The capacity of the plant is about fifty working men producing approximately 100,000 bricks per day. Four different varieties of bricks are manufactured. These are the dry-pressed brick, the wire-cut brick, the facing brick, and the sewer brick. There are building bricks of all kinds, including colonial bricks and paving bricks. Paxtonville bricks have been extensively used in construction projects throughout Pennsylvania and New York state. Pine Lawn, the residence of the president of Susquehanna University, was built in 1928 with Paxtonville brick by the contractor, John Snyder of Selinsgrove. An examination of this building must necessarily convince one that the bricks are

of superior color and quality. The Pennsylvania Railroad has constructed a number of sidings for the use of the brick plant. The above is the story of the brick plant for the first three years of its operation.

In course of time the plant suffered serious financial reverses and went into the hands of the receivers. Judge Clinton R. Savage bought the plant at sheriff sale in 1911. On May 11, 1911, the company was reorganized and took the name of the Paxton Brick Company. After the reorganization, the plant was purchased by a group of men then associated with the Watsontown Brick Company. The office of the company was located in Watsontown until March, 1914, when it was transferred to the First National Bank building, Middleburg, Pa. A little later the office became located on the plant property at Paxtonville. In 1917, the officers of the Paxton Brick Company purchased sufficient stock of the Watsontown Brick Company to give them a controlling interest in that company, and in consequence the office was moved from Paxtonville to Watsontown. From that time on, practically all the business interests of the company have been carried on at Watsontown. From 1911 to 1929, the Paxton Brick Company was in full operation except for short periods during the winter months, and from 1929 to 1942, the operation was only at intermittent periods. From 1942 to 1945, the plant was completely idle largely because there wasn't enough demand for brick since the war situation caused the suspension of practically all of the building operations except replacement and repair jobs, and these weren't by any means sufficient to keep two plants in operation. In 1945 the plant was completely overhauled, some new machinery was installed, and the plant was reopened in October of that year. When operating at its full capacity, the plant will have an output of 15,000,000 bricks per year.

The Beavertown Brick Plant

In 1926 the Beavertown Brick Company was organized. The plant is located in the southwestern end of the borough of Beavertown. The shale for the manufacture of brick is obtained approximately one mile south of the plant. A railroad track extends from the shale pits to the plant and the shale is transported by means of tram-cars. The plant is composed of six bee-hive kilns, each with a capacity of 72,000 to 78,000 bricks and is heated by twelve

fire-boxes. Soft coal is used for burning the brick. All of the brick manufactured are of the building type. Thirty-three men are employed when the plant is running at full capacity. In 1935 the company was incorporated under the name of the Hill Brick Company. Sometime later the Hill Brick Company sold all the buildings on four tracts of land in Beavertown and Beaver Township for \$42,000 to the Glenn Gery Shale Brick Company.

Selinsgrove Brick Plants

There were two brick plants in Selinsgrove. The one plant was owned and operated by Samuel Gemberling, and was located directly across the street south of the old State Highway Department Building on the corner of Sassafras and Water Streets. When the need for more clay became evident, the plant was moved to the north of Sassafras Street between Sassafras Street and Bough Street. The other plant was owned and operated by Jackson W. Gaugler, and was located on the east side of South Market Street, back of the present high hedge fence, directly across the street from the William F. Groce residence, 324 South Market Street. Sometime afterwards Mr. Gaugler built another brick plant between the canal and Penn's Creek, a little to the south of the present borough line. He stopped the manufacture of bricks during the last decade of the nineteenth century. The Gemberling plant ceased operation about the same time.

At first the work of making bricks had to be done almost completely by hard manual labor. It was in a day when improved machinery was lacking and gas was not in use for heating purposes. The clay had to be hauled by wheelbarrows from the clay pits to a machine operated by horse-power that ground the clay into fine particles. Clay moulds of either two or three brick lengths were filled with this ground clay. The mould was laid flat until the middle of the following day, and then it was set on edge. On the third day it was put in the kiln to be burned. The kilns had a capacity of about 250,000 bricks. About 3,000 bricks were made in a half day. Later improved machinery was introduced, and the moulds were increased to the length of six bricks. The change in position of the bricks during the three-day period was then achieved automatically and the output per half day increased to 6,500 bricks. There were always additional bricks manufactured to re-

place the broken or otherwise damaged ones to maintain the normal output. Cord oakwood was used to heat the kilns. Later as oakwood became increasingly scarce, pine wood was substituted. The layers of brick for burning in the kilns were piled at right angles on top of one another. The fire was built in the archways between the piles of brick. The brick at the floor of the kilns were known as arch brick and were used in the construction of cisterns, the layer next above was the hard brick or paving brick, and those at the top were used as front or face brick. The bricks at the ends or along the outside were relatively soft and were used in building chimneys and other inside brick work.

Many of the bricks manufactured in Selinsgrove were shipped on the canal boats to distant markets. Large quantities were used in building brick residences in Selinsgrove and neighboring communities. It ought to be stated that many of the large brick residences in Selinsgrove were built of brick manufactured by the Gaugler Brick Plant. Mr. Gaugler made the brick used in the building of Selinsgrove Hall on the campus of Susquehanna University in 1858. The bake-ovens from far and near throughout the county were constructed with brick manufactured in Selinsgrove. As the demand for hard wood for manufacturing purposes increased, the less of this kind of wood was available for heating the brick kilns. It then became increasingly more difficult to produce adequate heat in the kilns with the softer and lighter wood unless a much larger supply was consumed. In fact, ninety cords of the softer wood had to be burned to provide an amount of heat equivalent to that provided by sixty cords of the hard wood. This added expense made the price of brick practically prohibitive. With increasing competition from other plants that used gas in place of a cheap quality of light wood, the Selinsgrove brick plants found too small the margin between the actual cost of making the bricks and their market price, and therefore were compelled to close. For some years Gaugler had brick, manufactured elsewhere, shipped by the carload to Selinsgrove and then retailed to his different customers. These imported bricks were made at Paxtonville and Milton. His new brickyard was located along the railroad siding where the present warehouse and barn are located on Orange Street.

Miscellaneous Plants

There were other brick plants in the county during the quarter of century following the close of the Civil War. A brick plant was in operation about one mile east of Paxtonville, located between the creek and the railroad. It was managed by Henry Getz. The bricks were made by hand and burned with wood fire in stacks in the open field. The clay pits and the grading of the railroad siding for the shipment of the brick are still in evidence. The store building near the railroad crossing, the older part of the Evangelical Church building, and a number of the residences of the village were constructed with brick produced at this plant. There was also a brick plant situated on land now included in the borough limits of Beavertown. About one hundred yards west of the railroad station in Beaver Springs where the Dairymen's League building now stands, was a brick plant, owned and operated by Henry Mechtley. The brick were of common brick variety and burned in kilns with fire produced from cordwood in the archways. Residences of the town were constructed with brick made at this plant. John Snook had a brick plant two miles northwest of Beaver Springs. Snook was succeeded by Daniel Price, and he in turn by Henry Getz and his three sons, in the operation of the brick business. This plant furnished the brick for the erection of the Reformed Church building and a number of the residences of Beaver Springs. Helfrich and Smith made brick about one-fourth mile north of the present Kline's Service Station. A brick plant, located about one-half mile south of Troxelville, made the bricks used in the building of the churches and private dwellings of that town. There were two brick yards at Middleburg, the one was located on the right bank of Middle Creek, a short distance below the bridge across the creek in Swineford, and the other was located at the Old Fair Grounds, near the creek. There are many brick buildings to-day in Middleburg and Swineford that were constructed from brick manufactured in the local brick yards. All these plants were in full operation in the eighties, and permanently suspended operations in the early nineties.

CHAPTER 15

Other Important Industries and Business Enterprises of the County

Every industrious man in every lawful calling is a useful man. —Rousseau

During the first quarter of the nineteenth century farming and the operation of flour and grist mills and saw-mills constituted the most numerous business interests of the people in many portions of the county. On a smaller scale could be found cigar-making, the making of maple syrup and maple sugar, the burning of tar and charcoal and cider-making. Other industries included hemp mills, fulling mills, clover mills, oil mills, carding mills, paper mills, tanneries, distilleries, and iron foundries. The occupations of residents were listed as boatmen, blacksmiths, butchers, carpenters, coopers, clockmakers, comb-makers, chairmakers, doctors, gelders, hatters, horse-jockeys, tavern-keepers, joiners, laborers, masons, mill-wrights, millers, potters, plough-makers, pump-makers, pearl button makers, saddlers, shoe-makers, stage-drivers, school-masters, tailors, wheelwrights, weavers, wagon-makers, tinsmiths, tinkers, and others.

Cigar Making in the County

Tobacco is used in the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes, pipe tobacco, and chewing tobacco. The Pennsylvania tobacco is largely used in the manufacture of cigars. It is said that North Carolina leads in the manufacture of cigarettes and Pennsylvania in the making of cigars. The manufacturing of smoking and chewing tobacco has become an enormous business. The source of revenue for the American Government from the tax on tobacco is exceeded only by the income tax. In the manufacture of the several forms of tobacco, the initial steps are the removal of the stems and the mid-ribs. In the manufacture of chewing tobacco, the tobacco is made into what is known as "fine cut", or is pressed into cakes with flavors of vanilla, licorice, chocolate, sugar, and the like, and is known as "plug tobacco". In the pipe-smoking tobacco, the leaves are cut fine and placed on the market in packages.

Consideration will be given to the local manufacture of cigars only, because that was the chief use to which the tobacco leaf was put in this community. Further-

more, our interest centers largely in the old-fashioned method of making cigars by hand as was done for some sixty years in the county, (1866 - 1929), despite the fact that most of the cigars today are machine-made. It is still commonly believed that the hand-made cigar is the best. A cigar may be roughly and very simply defined as a short compact roll of the tobacco leaf for smoking. It is composed of a core or filler, an inner cover or binder, and an outer cover or wrapper.

Cigars are made from tobacco that has been rather carefully selected. The parts used as the inside or filler must be uniform in quality throughout so as to burn evenly and to permit the smoke to be drawn through rather freely. This is particularly the case with what are known as good cigars, but in cigars of a cheaper grade, an inferior quality may be used below the outer cover or wrapper. The initial steps in the making of a cigar are the cleaning and stripping of the leaves. By "stripping" is meant removing the stems and midribs.

The cigars manufactured in Snyder County were made for the most part from tobacco imported from wholesale tobacco growers of Lancaster County and other places. Only a very small portion of the tobacco used was raised in the county. The tobacco was shipped to the manufacturer of cigars in bundles or bales, frequently called cases. The tobacco suitable for the outer cover or wrapper was shipped in separate bundles. These tobacco bundles or cases ranged in weight from 200 to 400 pounds. The cases were not opened until the tobacco was about to be used, when the leaves were spread, sprinkled with water, and then wrapped over night with something like burlap known as tobacco cloth. From twenty-five to fifty of these leaves—really half-leaves—were spread out on top of one another and folded over, and again wrapped into a damp cloth. The leaves were then further graded and cured again for sometime.

There are two kinds of cigars—the scrap cigar and the long, hand-made filler cigar. In the scrap cigar, the tobacco scrap was prepared by what was known as a "scrap machine". This scrap, known as the core or filler, was then encased by an intermediate strip of a tobacco leaf known as the inner cover or binder, and placed in a cigar mold under pressure for about ten hours. Each of these molds contained spaces for twenty cigars. Usually a worker operated from five to ten of these molds.

Each of these forms of tobacco was then removed from the mold, and enclosed in an outer cover or wrapper arranged in spiral form, beginning at the one end and terminating at the other end or mouth part, and then fastened by paste. In some cigars, the filler and wrapper were composed of the same kind of tobacco while in others these parts consisted of different kinds of tobacco. In the long, hand-made filler cigar, the required shape and firmness were obtained by a careful manipulation of the hand instead of by tobacco molds. At this stage, a portion of a leaf was cut to make the wrapper or outer covering, which was wound about in spiral fashion and fastened by means of paste as was the case with the scrap cigar. In either kind of cigar, a toothpick or a shoe peg was inserted at the end of the cigar, otherwise the end had to be cut off, or bitten off, before smoking it.

The cigars were also classified according to color such as light, medium light, and dark, with the corresponding proper nouns of Clara, Colorado, and Madura. These cigars were also given such high-sounding names as the Gilbert Special, Gold Seal, Speckled Beauty, Hand-Made, Square Deal, Far-Away-Moses, and Abraham Lincoln. The grading was done by the foreman or by the proprietor, according to color. The cigars were packed in cigar-boxes containing 50 or 100 cigars, the boxes properly labeled, the required revenue stamp attached, and then they were put on the market. Usually the manufacturer had his own distributor for his cigars among private individuals, hotels, and stores. The prices of the cigars varied greatly. There was, of course, the usual one-cent cigar, provincially known as the "penny stinker", the scrap cigar that sold for two for a nickel and popularly known as a "twofer", and the nickel and dime cigars.

The cigar-boxes used by the different manufacturers of cigars throughout the county were made in Freeburg. This box-factory was at first owned and operated by the Brown Brothers, William F. and Arthur C., and later by Arthur C. Brown alone, over a period of about seventeen years. These cigar boxes were made out of popular and cedar wood. The cedar wood was especially desirable because of the diffusion of the cedar odor through the cigars. It ought to be said here that the tobacco leaf has a high absorbent characteristic and readily takes up any odor from the air. If the air of the building is foul or polluted, the chances are strong that this odor becomes

noticeable in the smoking of the cigar. This is the reason why only certain kinds of wood may be used in the manufacture of cigar boxes.

Freeburg was the chief center of cigar-making in Snyder County. While there was some cigar-making in Selinsgrove, Paxtonville, Benfer, and perhaps in some other places, the main industry must always be identified with the town of Freeburg. Cigar-making was started in Freeburg by Augustus Springman assisted by Ludwig Hoffman in the years immediately following the close of the Civil War, probably in the year 1866, or thereabouts. These two pioneers were followed by Emanuel Houtz and his two sons, John and Will Houtz and a grandson, Will W. Houtz, formerly of the Houtz Tobacco Company of Sunbury. Felix K. Snyder became their successor in course of time. The Gilbert Brothers, Oscar Gilbert, Henry Wilson Gilbert, and John O. Gilbert, veterans in cigar-making, started the business of their own in 1894, and continued it for thirty-five years terminating it in 1929. In 1901 William L. Bassler and Charles M. Herrold entered into partnership in the making of cigars under the corporate name of "The Charles M. Herrold and Company". In 1904 Charles W. Bassler bought out this company and continued the business until 1907. Fred Glass began the manufacture of cigars in 1891 and continued the work for some years. Each manufacturer employed from twenty to twenty-five people. The wages paid for making cigars in Freeburg were twenty cents per hundred for the scrap cigar and fifty cents per hundred for the long, hand-made, filler cigar. The making of about 200 of the long, hand-made filler cigars was considered a good day's work; the output of the scrap cigars was just about double that number per day. In the heyday of the cigar-making industry in Freeburg, at least one-fourth of the population of the town at the time, or about 125 people, were employed in this industry. The business ceased completely in Freeburg about eighteen years ago, and the people of the town and community have been in consequences compelled to seek employment elsewhere. One cannot help but wonder what must have been the real cause of the decline of the cigar-making industry, and its final termination, in the county. The answer given to the inquiry indicates that the introduction of machine-made cigars and the very extensive use of the cigarette today constitute the two major causes

of the decline and the final abandonment of the cigar-making industry within the confines of our county.

The Distillery Business

The distillery business was carried on in this section years ago on a much larger scale than most people today appear to realize. Distilleries were rather common throughout the county at one time. It is not possible to name a fixed date when this distilling business in the county had its beginning. Years ago when roads were poor and there was no ready market for grain, the farmers found it more economical and profitable to turn their grain into whiskey and sell it than it was to transport their grain to some distant market. Also when land was first cleared, it was planted in rye because that kind of grain was found better adapted to virgin soil and was more extensively used for distilling purposes. A bushel of rye usually could be turned into three gallons of whiskey. In 1880 when rye was selling at forty cents per bushel, whiskey was selling at thirty-eight cents per gallon. Twenty years later a gallon of whiskey was sold from \$1.90 to \$2.50 per gallon while rye sold at fifty cents per bushel. At these prices farmers found out that they were making a good profit. Farmers also found it more profitable to raise more rye and less oats and wheat since there was always a large popular demand for the whiskey. There was also a wide-spread demand for rye whiskey. Many farmers felt that haying and harvesting, barn-raising, or any work project could hardly be completed without a jug of whiskey. It is a matter of record that when Woodling's Mill on Middle Creek, one and one-half miles south of Pawling Station, was erected, between sixty and seventy barrels of whiskey were consumed.

Distilleries were very common years ago in most of the townships of the county. In a few of the townships such as Penn, Middlecreek, and Spring, no trace or knowledge of any distilling could be found. Even though some of their residents at least were by no means teetotalers. In West Beaver Township, near Bannerville, a distillery was in operation about 1880. Beaver Township is credited with eight distilleries at various times and places. Just east of Port Ann in Adams Township, at the foot of Jacks Mountain, was located the Shawver Distillery, in operation from 1878 to 1908. It was one of the smallest distilleries in the county, having a capacity of

118 gallons. At first large wooden vats were used to ferment the grain that was ground at a nearby mill. A certain amount of barley was used in making the mash. This preparation was allowed to remain in the vats, for about a week, depending on the time required for proper fermentation. This time depended very largely on weather conditions. When the fermentation became too active so that the vats would overflow, a quantity of sweet cream was added to slow down the fermentation. Later some of the wooden vats were replaced by large copper kettles. The contents were heated in order to be reduced to steam, then forced through copper coils, and cooled with cold spring water. This is the reason for a distillery being located near a spring of water. After the steam was condensed, the liquid was put into charcoal barrels for about three years or more to be aged or seasoned and then marketed. The market price of the "Shawver Brand" of whiskey was from \$2 to \$2.50 per gallon. A man had to have a license to operate a distillery. All whiskey barrels had to be bonded and sealed by a government officer.

In Centre Township, just north of the village of Penns Creek, was located the Hartman Distillery that was in operation up to the time of National Prohibition. Between 1825 and 1840 there were at least six more distilleries in Centre Township. Four of them were located along Penn's Creek and two were located somewhere between the village of Penns Creek and Middleburg. In West Perry Township a distillery was owned and operated by the Pyle Brothers as early as 1825 and continued until the close of the Civil War. This distillery was built over the famous Robert Mateer Spring which is now a part of the boundary and also a corner of the Snyder-Juniata county line. Tradition connects this distillery with the crooked boundary line between the two counties at this point. The story goes that the surveyors of the county line deviated "from the straight and narrow way" to go to the distillery for a refreshing drink, and after their thirst had been quenched, they turned north to the Mahantango Creek which then became the county line.

In Selinsgrove as early as 1820 four distilleries were in operation. Prior to 1836 Matthias App operated a distillery at the eastern terminus of Walnut Street. The water for use in the distillery was obtained from a well

located on the north-east corner of Market and Walnut Streets. The power necessary to pump this water was supplied by the use of dogs placed inside a wheel about fifteen feet in diameter. This wheel was set in motion by the tramping of the dogs, and in turn the pumping resulted. It is reported that stray dogs that proved a neighborhood nuisance in killing sheep and other farm animals constantly proved a source of supply for this type of work. The distillery was subsequently replaced by a brewery and finally by a foundry. Washington Township in 1835 had twelve distilleries, mostly found in Pleasant and Flint Valleys. It was said that Washington Township had more distilleries than schoolhouses. The fact is that in that one year Washington Township had only one schoolhouse, but 100 years later, the township had ten schools, thirteen teachers, and no distilleries. The farmers would bring their grain, apples, and peaches in amounts ranging from forty to eighty bushels and get them distilled into whiskey and applejack for the half. People of that remote time tell of the large piles of apples belonging to different farmers of the community to be made into applejack. Applejack then sold from twenty-two to twenty-eight cents a gallon, and good rye whiskey sold for thirty-three to thirty-eight cents a gallon. In what was known in 1796 as Mahantango Township, there were at least two dozen distilleries. In Union and Chapman Townships there were twelve distilleries at one time or another.

Another distillery in the county that deserves mention is the well-known Marks Distillery, located at the foot of Shade Mountain, south of Middleburg. This distillery was originally built by Jeremiah Crouse about 1875 and finally became the possession of Joseph L. Marks who owned and operated it for a period of about twenty-five years. The liquor produced was stored for aging and seasoning in his liquor cellar in Swineford. The capacity of the Marks Distillery was about thirty gallons of whiskey per day and required the daily use of ten bushels of rye. Most of the whiskey was sold wholesale in Philadelphia at prices ranging from \$1.60 to \$1.80 per gallon. This distillery also had a large retail business. Fifty and more years ago, it was the common thing for the farmers to make a trip to the Marks Distillery for their usual supply of whiskey to "help" them during the haying and harvesting season. In addition to the

whiskey business, Mr. Marks carried on the raising and fattening of steers and hogs for the market on a rather extensive scale. He did this by using the mash for feed. This could be done without intoxicating these animals by keeping the mash for sometime before using it for feed. Since Marks carried on the distillery business legally, he had nothing to fear from being discovered in using mash to fatten cattle and hogs for the market. The mash proved to be a by-product of the distillery, and there was no need at all for concealing it.

The Making of Maple Syrup and Maple Sugar

The making of maple syrup and maple sugar may have been considered a necessary source of a much-desired article of food by both the Indians and the early white settlers. The original method of tapping maple trees was with an axe but this proved wasteful and very destructive to the trees. The sap was caught in troughs hewn out of logs, and then carried in pails to large potash kettles where it was reduced to syrup and sugar by boiling. These kettles of the eighteenth century would prove to be a real curiosity today. Primitive ways of making syrup and sugar, however, did not continue very long. Soon the tapping was accomplished by boring holes into tree trunks into which were fitted spouts or spiles made out of the wood of the elderberry bush or out of metal, and the boiling was done in large iron kettles. Later metal troughs replaced the wooden spouts and evaporation methods were substituted for kettle boiling. Snyder County was not considered prominently among the counties as a maple syrup and maple sugar producing county. Different parts of the county produced some, but in small quantities, and then mostly for home consumption instead of for commercial purposes.

The sap of the maple tree began to flow at the break of winter. This time extended usually from the beginning of March to the middle of April or a period of about six weeks. The sap was drained off completely by the time the trees began to bud. The freezing nights and the mild days proved most conducive to the flow of the sap. The sap of the maple is a very pure sugar juice containing on the average three and one-half per cent of sugar. On the average a tree yielded about three pounds of sugar in a year although trees have been known to yield six pounds or more. A tree had to be from thirty

to forty years old before it could produce its maximum yield. About one barrel of sap was needed to produce one gallon of syrup, and four and one-half gallons of sap were needed to make a pound of sugar. The sugar when marketed sold for prices ranging from six and one-fourth to twelve and one-half cents per pound.

The usual practice was to bore from two to four holes about an inch in depth into a tree and from three to four feet from the ground, with a half-inch to a five-eighth inch auger. The number of holes in each tree depended on the size of the tree. The holes were placed on the southern exposure of the tree and inclined slightly upward to allow the ready flow of the sap in the spile. Into these holes were inserted the wooden or metal spouts or spiles about one foot in length. If an elderberry stem was used for this purpose, the pulp was removed and the portion of the spout inserted into the tree flattened off on the top side to permit the free flow of the sap from the tree into the spile. A pail or bucket was placed in the proper position to catch the sap. The sap was collected in large buckets or in barrels and hauled on a horse-drawn sled to the place of boiling. The boiling place consisted of a big iron or copper kettle having a capacity of about a barrel. This kettle was suspended by chains from a horizontal pole or bar supported by posts, or forked or crossed sticks at each end. Wood was used for fuel largely because of its cheapness and also on account of a rather prevalent belief that wood fire provided a better flavor to the syrup and sugar. The sap was boiled until it assumed a syrup consistency. It took practically a day to boil a kettle of sap down to syrup. When sugar was desired, the boiling was continued until it began to grain, when it was poured into cups and left to cool.

Silk Manufacture

Snyder County has had many and varied industries, some of which proved short-lived and doomed to failure almost from their very beginning. The silk, sugar, watch, and comb industries of Selinsgrove come under the latter caption. During the days of the Pennsylvania Canal, an effort was put forth to manufacture silk by the commonly accepted method of employing the silk worm and growing the mulberry tree. This new venture was started by Henry W. Snyder, a son of the gover-

nor, who believed he could make silk available to the people of the community at a much lower cost production price by eliminating the expense of importing the raw silk from China and Japan. Mr. Snyder then lived on North Market Street in what is now known as the Episcopal Rectory. He constructed numerous sun-porches in which the silk-worms prepared their cocoons. He also cultivated the white mulberry trees, the leaves of which constituted the food for the silk-worm. These trees were planted in a field along the canal back of the old Feehrer's homestead on Water Street, now the property of Arthur J. Jarrett. With what success Mr. Snyder met in his new venture, nothing definitely is known but the manufacture of raw silk was never carried very far and soon ceased altogether.

Some years later a second venture in the making of silk was undertaken by Miss Mary Ellen Van Buskirk in her home on the corner of Walnut and Water Streets. She raised the silk-worms on trays in rooms kept at a uniform temperature, and fed them with the leaves of the mulberry trees that were growing along Water Street. This project must have been entirely a private enterprise, and carried on more for mere personal satisfaction than financial gains. It is said that many curious visitors called at the home to observe these strange little animals devour greedily and rather noisily the leaves of the mulberry tree.

The Manufacture of Sugar and Sorghum Molasses

In the days before the railroad went through the Middle Creek Valley, sugar and sorghum molasses were manufactured in Selinsgrove. The proprietor of the plant was Charles Rhoads and his farm house later became the residence of Henry L. Philips, the tailor, on North Market Street. The sugar cane was cultivated in a field back of the Susquehanna Female Seminary. This land was for the most part swampy land but with its black mucky soil proved well adapted to the raising of sugar cane. With the coming of the railroad in 1871, all this land was drained by means of a ditch running parallel to the railroad tracks. The sorghum sugar mill stood near the present passenger station and across the street from the lot which later became the residence of Richard Lloyd Schroyer. The plant consisted of a crushing mill and press, with kettles to boil the sugar cane juice into

sugar and sorghum molasses. Of the amount of production, the period of duration, decline, and final abandonment, nothing definite appears to be known.

The Manufacture of Wooden Utensils and Combs

The same man who was the owner and manager of the sugar and molasses plant was also engaged in the making of wooden utensils, such as bowls, casks, wooden forks, rolling pins, and barrels. The barrels were used for shipping the sugar and sorghum he manufactured. David Witmer of Salem had a cooper's shop. He made tubs, kegs, barrels, "schtitz", doughtrays, and the like. J. Norton Crouse owned and operated a comb factory in sheds located back of his home on South Market Street, adjoining the Trinity Lutheran church on the south. The combs were carved out of the horns of cattle. Most of these industries quite generally terminated during Civil War days.

Match Factories

In April, 1888, the Star Match Company was organized and a large factory was built on the triangular-shaped lot at Pine Street and the railroad, Selinsgrove, along what is today known as Orange Street. The Hendricks Hardware Storage building now designates the exact site. A railroad siding extended to the factory. The machinery was brought from Beavertown. The factory flourished for about two years and then was bought by another firm and the machinery was moved away. It is said that approximately seventy men and women found employment when the plant was in full operation. The building soon became encumbered in debt and, August 23, 1890, was sold at sheriff's sale to George Wagon-seller. In April, 1894, William Haines and Son leased the building to be used as a planing mill and sash factory. The planing mill continued to operate until February 1, 1898, when it was destroyed by fire and was never rebuilt. Poor water pressure, no steamer, and the cold weather so handicapped the firemen that they were practically powerless in fighting the flames. The owners of the mill presented a statement to the borough officials charging them with gross negligence for the insufficient water supply and the low water pressure which made inevitable the destruction of the plant by fire that otherwise could have been readily saved. The responsibility

for the destruction of the mill was finally shifted to the water company, and after considerable controversy the matter was finally dropped.

In 1925 the Beacon Match Company was organized at Hummels Wharf. The factory was housed in the brick building now occupied by the Trailco Manufacturing and Sales Company along the old route of the Susquehanna Trail, and opposite the building of what was formerly the Hummels Wharf State Bank. The factory employed from eighteen to twenty-five men and women, and had a capacity of about two car-loads of matches per week. It continued operation for approximately three years and then was abandoned.

Carpet Weavers and Rug Makers

Carpet weavers were very numerous in the county years ago. The men outnumbered the women in this craft, probably because the nature of the work required greater strength. Undoubtedly the most widely known of the Snyder County weavers was Joseph Schnee of Freeburg who wove a brand of coverlets so characteristic in their individuality that the type bears his name today in their identification as "schnee debbiche". Realizing the value of a trade mark, he always wove in one corner of his coverlets his name and the date and place of the making of the fabric. The making of these coverlets was very extensive during the first half of the nineteenth century. The Schnee Woolen mill in which the wool was spun and woven, was located along the run between Freemont and Mt. Pleasant Mills. As Freeburg was Joseph Schnee's place of residence, he wove the name of his residence into his products rather than the place of his mill. "Schnee Debbiche" are still in existence. They consist of blue and white colors and date back to 1832, 1840, and 1844. Sometimes the colors were red and brown with spread eagles of green in the four corners. In fact, many different colors were used. These different colors presented an appearance that proved clean and refreshing. Another branch of the household arts was the making of braided and crocheted rugs as well as hooked rugs.

The first designs of the coverlets were in the form of squares, rectangles and circles. A large variety of different patterns was developed that would please the tastes of the most exacting and over-critical persons. Dyeing the wool in those days was certainly done well since the colors

to this day continue fast and true, apparently unchanged throughout all these years. Dyeing the wool was the housekeeper's special task. The bark of the butternuts, the maple, and hemlock provided the browns. The birch, alder, hickory, sumac, and smartweed furnished the yellows. Some of the dyes were imported from foreign countries. The formulas for mixing the home-made dyes were carefully guarded family secrets.

Miscellaneous Group of Artisans

The cabinet makers of past generations were skilled craftsmen. They specialized in the making of chairs, settees, corner cupboards, and drop-leaf tables. Pottery was molded by hand and baked at Penns Creek, Hummels Wharf, New Berlin, Beaver Springs, and other places in the county. Saddlers were found in most communities. Carriage makers were found in a number of places in the county. Among the old clock-makers must be mentioned Michael Wittenmyer of Middleburg and Phillip Frank of New Berlin. Frank made the inside works of the clock and Andrew Spitler, a native of New Berlin, made the cases for the grandfather clocks.

The Kentucky Rifle and its Snyder County Makers

William Penn was eager to interest many of the oppressed people of the Old World to make settlements in Pennsylvania. For this purpose, he extolled the merits of his newly-acquired lands in America, the fertile soil, the rich flora and fauna, and he promised all who would come to his Province political and religious freedom. As a result, many people of different nationalities and creeds flocked to these lands of great promise. Among these people were numerous gunsmiths from South Germany and Switzerland. They believed there would be great demand for their guns in a country teeming with wild animals and inhabited by unfriendly savages. To say the least, hunting in pioneer days proved a profitable vocation. Hunting provided food for the family and skins and furs for clothing and barter. In times of trouble with the natives, the colonial government paid bounties for Indian scalps that made the killing of Indians profitable. A little later bounties were also paid for certain animals that proved injurious to game and crops. No wonder the rifle and the axe proved indispensable in the subjugation of the American wilderness.

The rifle that was brought by the early settlers from Europe to America proved unreasonably heavy and large in bore. It possessed poor sights and frail trigger guards, was slow to load, and was expensive to shoot because of the large amount of lead and powder required. It was therefore unsuited for prolonged trips into the interior. These shortcomings induced the early gunsmiths to make a rifle better suited to the pioneer life of the wilderness. In a few decades they succeeded in perfecting a flint-lock rifle that remained basically unchanged for 150 years. Undoubtedly there is no gainsaying that this superb rifle should rightfully be called the Pennsylvania rifle. Many of the Pennsylvania pioneers, however, migrated to Kentucky to begin settlements there, and they carried with them their Pennsylvania rifle. In Kentucky it attained its final stage of perfection and accuracy, and it became known in course of time as the Kentucky rifle.

The first rifles made in Pennsylvania were largely reproductions of those brought from Europe and were made in and near Philadelphia. In 1709 Swiss emigrants settled on the present site of Lancaster. This place soon became the starting point for the settlers who were moving into the valleys of the Schuylkill, Juniata, and the Susquehanna. It was in Lancaster sometime between 1730 and 1740 that the Kentucky rifle made its first appearance and reached its final stage of perfection. The rifle has had great historical significance because it enabled the settler to subdue the wilderness and to gain independence for the Colonies. It helped to win the Second War for Independence and made possible the independence of Texas from Mexico.

The Kentucky rifle was entirely handmade from the brass butt plate to the muzzle. Its cost ranged from ten to fifty dollars or even more depending upon the inlays or engravings. The flint-lock rifle of these early days contained from forty to fifty separate parts, excluding the inlays, depending upon the type of lock action and the mode of attachment of the barrel to the stock. It required about a week's work to make one of the plain rifles under average working conditions. The most difficult part to make was the barrel. This was made out of iron. The iron was bought by the gunsmith in the form of flat bars of varying dimensions. These dimensions determined the length of the barrel. The flat bar of iron was heated in the forge and bent and welded around an iron rod of

smaller diameter than the finished bar. This welding process called for the greatest skill and usually required about five hours of work by the smith and his apprentice. By the process of annealing, the gun barrel could be changed into almost any desired shape. The bore was at first rough and irregular but was made smooth and of the desired diameter by bits turned with an ordinary brace. The bore was straightened by means of a heavy lead hammer. By a complicated process made possible by a rifling machine, spiral grooves were cut in the bore to impart the spin to the bullet and to cause it to maintain a uniform course through the air. The rear sight of the gun was made of iron but the front sight was made of brass or German silver. The barrel was browned to prevent a glare in the sunlight which might reveal the hunter to the unseen foe and to prevent it from rusting when exposed to the elements. The lock and trigger parts were forged on the anvil and then filed into the desired graceful shapes. The springs were made from old saws and swords. Later the percussion cap was perfected and proved to be the end of the flint-lock.

The gun stock was usually made from rock maple wood although walnut, apple, and cherry were also used. The inlays were frequently artistically engraved. The wiping and loading rod was made from a piece of hickory wood. This rod was used to place the bullet on the powder and to clean the bore. The bullet mold was used to cast a spherical-shaped bullet of lead, slightly smaller than the bore of the rifle. The caliber of the rifle was usually determined by the number of balls made from a pound of lead. The leather hunting bag and the powder horn were the indispensable of every hunter. The hunting bag was made of buckskin at first but later of calfskin. In this bag were carried the bullets; unspun flax, or tow, for cleaning the bore; extra flints; and later the percussion caps to detonate the charge. The powder horn contained the black powder to keep it free from moisture. The powder horn was made from the horns of cattle or the buffalo. The horn or metal charger which held the correct amount of powder for the rifle was attached to the powder horn or the hunting bag. The amount of powder used for a single shot approximated one-fourth the weight of the ball. The proper amount for the rifle was determined by experimenting.

In loading the Kentucky rifle, a charge of powder

was poured into the charger, leveled off, and poured into the barrel. A greased patch of linen from the patch box was laid squarely on the barrel; a bullet with the sprue end upward was placed on the patch and pushed into the barrel until flush with the muzzle. Then the excess portion of the linen patch was cut off with a sharp knife, and the bullet was pushed down the bore until it rested on the powder charge. The priming pan was then filled with a fine-grained powder for quick ignition, the cock half-bent, the trigger set, and the gun was ready for firing. All this may appear a long tedious task to load the gun but an expert rifleman could fire three or four shots per minute, and when the linen patch was dispensed with by using simply the naked ball, the loading could be done even more rapidly, though the shooting might probably not be so accurate and powerful. The skilled rifleman could even do the reloading while on the run. In the days before matches, the flint-lock was frequently used to start a fire. When the gun was loaded, a wooden plug was inserted in the flash hole, a small wad of tow and powder was placed in the pan, the cock was bent, and the trigger pulled. This ignited the tow and powder producing a live coal which was quickly transferred to the kindling wood, and with a little fanning, soon produced the desired flame. The plug was then withdrawn, the pan reprimed, and the rifle was ready for shooting once more.

The constant steady flow of the settlers into the interior resulted finally in opening settlements in the territory now known as Union and Snyder counties. This territory served as a buffer state against the French and Indians during the inter-colonial wars. Game, probably just as abundant here as in any other area, provided food for the family larder and skins and pelts for clothing and barter. Since the Indians were as ruthless in their attacks upon the settlements as anywhere, many gunsmiths preferred to follow closely the course of the settlers because they always found a ready market for their products. Not very much is recorded about these gunsmiths in this area. A few of their rifles are still in existence and a number of our oldest residents have recollections of some of them and of their work. Among them may be mentioned Joseph Long (1799-1872) of near Beaver Springs; Elias Specht (1820-1890) of Beavertown; Amos Benfer (1841-1916) of Benfer; Henry Laudenslager (1839-1912)

of Fair Oak in Penn Township; and George Long of New Berlin (1821-1915). There were also several German and Swiss rifleshooters residing along the old road from Freeburg to Fremont, but even their names are unknown in this day. Joseph Long was justice of the peace of Beaver Township. Elias Specht was a brother of Moses Specht, sheriff of Snyder County (1863-1867). Amos Benfer of Benfer was a carpenter and farmer in addition to being a gunsmith. He made double superposed rifles. He bought the barrels, and then bored and rifled them. He also bought the locks ready-made to be fitted, and sold the rifle complete for twenty-two dollars. A grandson, Charles Benfer, is still living near the old shop used by the gunsmith. Joseph Long of Beaver Springs was considered one of Snyder County's best gunsmiths, judging from a few of the rifles of his making still in existence. He specialized in double superposed rifles with swivel breech. He made rifles around 1825 to 1880. Henry Wetzel (1799-1879) owned and operated a log factory, located near Kreamer on the north side of the Middle Creek, in which he made sickle blades, scythes, and gun-barrels.

Inventions and Manufactures of Local People

Snyder County has had at least its proportionate number of ingeniously-minded individuals who have made worthwhile contributions to society in the nature of inventions in the different fields of human interests and activities. These inventions have contributed something to the happiness, the economy, and the efficiency of society in general. The number of persons in our county with inventive minds that have been engaged in this type of work exceeds our expectations. Space will permit only a few brief statements of only a few of these inventions. As is to be expected these inventions cover a wide field of human endeavor.

Isaac Kocher (1838-1908) operated a foundry and factory at the southern end of Water Street, Selinsgrove (site of the ice-plant), in which he manufactured horsepower threshing machines and farming implements. Jacob Bateman of Selinsgrove invented and manufactured (1870-1880) a grain drill. Charles Klingler of Beaver Springs invented and patented a car coupler in the late nineties, but by the time he was ready to put his invention on the market, the railroads had already adopted a similar device. James M. Kline (1862-1936) of Beavertown

invented an hydraulic ram that was quite extensively used in the West for land irrigation and for home water plants. Charles M. Kearns of Beavertown invented a cultivator and manufactured it in his own shop. His father, John P. Kearns (1844-1920), and brother, John A. Kearns (1879-1945), manufactured automobiles in Beavertown in the early days of that industry. A. H. Mutschler of Middleburg invented, patented, and manufactured a speed reducing unit to run ice cream freezers and other hand-cranked apparatus such as corn shellers, grindstones, meat grinders, butter churns, cream separators, cement mixers, and corn-to-crib elevators. Harvey W. Smith of Selinsgrove invented and patented in 1914 a grain and seed cleaner. This machine was manufactured by William Wagner and Rinaldo Gill in a shop adjoining the A. Ira Gemberling farm in Penn Township. This machine was manufactured over a period of four years and sold chiefly in Snyder and Union Counties. John W. Stahl (1883-1946) of Hoffer, a thresherman by occupation, conceived the idea of a sieve or screen to separate the grain from the chaff and the straw. He felt too much grain was going out with the straw. He manufactured and installed the screens on many threshing machines but never protected himself by patent rights, and the result was that his device soon fell into general use. John I. Woodruff in collaboration with William H. Wagner invented and manufactured a riding corn cultivator. It consisted of a divided axle with stirrups for the feet for guiding the machine along the row. Instead of pushing the shoes to conform with the row, the entire machine was directed to conform with the row. These men also produced and patented a washing machine based upon the operation of a vacuum cup with a duplex alternating action.

The inventions and manufactured articles of the Snyder County people were not restricted to farming implements and household equipment. They also covered devices in the field of sports, industry, and practical chemistry. Harold W. Follmer of Selinsgrove invented and patented in 1935 a tension equalizing device for spinning machines. The device is a control of tension for multiple unit thread, yarn, cable or cord "strength control". Tensile strength in vegetable, animal, or synthetic fibres is controlled by this invention. Ray M. Smith of New Berlin is a recognized authority as a gunsmith. He repairs, rebuilds, as well as manufactures guns of his own

design. He invented a superior telescope mount for hunting rifles. J. Howard Burns of Selinsgrove has a number of inventions to his credit, none of which he has patented. He invented a flashlight fishing or trapping signal that blinks when game or fish nibble at the trap or hook. If enough pressure is exerted, as when the trap is sprung, a ratchet device locks the switch, and as a result, the light shines continuously. This eliminates the necessity of walking the lines to examine the traps. A second invention is a transparent fishing plug with small holes in its sides, and a live minnow placed in it as bait. The free movement of the minnow presents a natural-like, tempting morsel for the fish. A third invention is the undulated roller skating rink floor. The curves of the floor are banked to gain speed as well as to traverse them easily.

The Burning of Charcoal and Tar

The burning of charcoal has passed through several successive stages from the simplest and crudest ways to the very complex and refined. The original way, so far as we know, was to place the split sticks of wood of a certain length in a conical-shaped position, spread out at the bottom and reaching to a point at the top, with a small open space in the center. In this center some birch bark, wood shavings, or kindling wood was placed with which to start the fire. The number of rows or layers of sticks was determined by the size of the contemplated stack and the quantity of charcoal to be produced. After this stacking had been completed, the entire stack of wood was fully covered over with earth. Then the fire was started in the center of the stack very near to the top. Small openings at the bottom provided some ventilation and similar openings near the top made possible the escape of smoke and gases. It was absolutely necessary that the burning take place in a very limited supply of air or no charcoal could be produced. A large supply of air would make possible complete combustion, and only ash would result. This primitive method of producing charcoal was strikingly similar to that of burning lime in stacks in the open field, a method that was employed prior to the use of lime kilns. There are different kinds of charcoal, as a result of the different kinds of wood used. Charcoal has many different kinds of uses. Charcoal was used very extensively in the blacksmith forges years ago because it produced a smokeless fire.

Another method of making charcoal and tar simultaneously, equally simple and perhaps a trifle less primitive, made use of an ordinary iron kettle such as was used by our forefathers to heat water for the weekly washing and for butchering purposes. By this method pine knots, pine stumps, and pine logs rich in oils and tar were cut up into very small pieces, and then packed securely in the kettle until completely filled. The filled kettle was then placed in an inverted position on top of a sloping metal sheet with a trough-like depression for the purpose of draining the dripping oils and tar into a receptacle placed along the side of the kettle. The kettle was covered over with a thick layer of ordinary firewood. To avoid a blazing wood fire, this outer layer of wood was covered over with a layer of sod and soil. This wood when set on fire generated sufficient heat to raise the temperature of the iron kettle sufficiently high to set free the oils and tar from the pine wood enclosed, and to transform this wood into charcoal.

Wood tar is a thick, oily, dark-colored, viscous liquid, and is obtained by the burning of certain kinds of wood, usually of the coniferous kind. The pine knots found so commonly scattered about in the woods years ago furnished excellent materials for the making of tar. A pine stump and pieces of pine wood unusually rich with tar were greatly coveted by the tar burner. Tar, just like charcoal, varies somewhat according to the kind of wood used. The first method of making tar was comparatively simple. A hole was dug in the ground or on the side of the hill. The hole was lined with sod, or turf, and filled with pine wood arranged in a conical-shaped or bee-hive-shaped stack, and then covered over with turf, sod, or ground. Like charcoal, the wood is burned very slowly for several days because of little access of air from the outside. As the burning continued, the tar dripped and was collected at the bottom of the pit in a vessel and was then conveyed by means of a pipe or trough to a barrel or keg placed on the outside. As is to be expected, this method was slow, primitive, and exceedingly wasteful, but simple, and met quite satisfactorily the needs of the times.

Tar was used very extensively years ago to grease farm wagons. It was also used as an aid in the removal of the bristles from the slaughtered pigs on butchering days, and as a common household remedy for colds, croups, and

other bronchial troubles that afflicted the younger members of the family. Tar is used today as an antiseptic on the skin and mucuous membranes, in cough mixtures, for water-proofings as on roofs, as a preservative of timber exposed to the weather, for calking seams in boats, for making repairs on sidewalks, and in the repairs of different kinds of roads.

The Manufacture of Leather

Leather was greatly needed in the pioneer home for the making of boots, shoes, and harness. It was made out of the skins of animals. The process of changing these skins into leather was known as tanning, and the agency by which it was accomplished was called the tannery. The tanning process was quite simple. While the skins of many different animals were tanned, the vast proportion of the skins were obtained from cattle. These skins were salted or dried for the purpose of preserving them before they were taken to the tannery. Tanneries were quite numerous all over the county. Practically every community had at least one tannery.

To understand the making of leather in the early days, one has to bear in mind that the animal skin is made up of two layers. The outer layer is cellular in structure, gives color to the skin, and contains the hair; the inner layer is thicker and more fibrous in structure, and constitutes the part of the skin that becomes the leather. The skin is trimmed of all useless parts and soaked in large tanks of cold water until sufficiently soft to make possible the removal of all portions of flesh, blood, muscles, salt, and dirt by means of a fleshing-knife. This process of scraping was aided originally by beating the hide with a stick of wood. There were usually two soakings for the green hides of about twenty-four hours in length, each with a change of water. The dried hides were soaked for twenty-four hours in water containing some sodium sulphide, then split or cut into halves lengthwise, run through a dry mill for about one hour, and then stacked in piles for twenty-four hours. Afterwards, they were put back into vats of water for another twenty-four hours, then run through the dry mill again, and once more immersed in cold water over night. The hides were then placed into pits containing lime water (milk of lime) for periods varying from six to eight days for the purpose of loosening the hair and the outer por-

tion of the skin. Every day during this period the hides were exposed to a fresh solution of lime. In this way large quantities of water were needed, and this accounts for the location of a tannery near a large spring of fresh water. Then followed the process of removing the hair, the outer layer, and the fleshy parts by means of a scraper or dressing-knife. The hair was baled and used for commercial purposes such as plastering or in the manufacture of blankets.

At this stage, the process of converting the hides into leather actually began by exposing them for a period of about two weeks to a tanning fluid of varying strengths, weak in the beginning and stronger toward the end. This was the time when the inner layer became changed in its nature to prevent decay in the presence of moist air without weakening its structure and tenacity. The liquid used originally in tanning was made out of bark and wood-ash, but later on, a commercial acid was substituted for the lye from the wood-ash. The bark of the rock or chestnut oak or hemlock trees, cut down for lumber or firewood in the clearing of the land, was used. This bark was crushed by the laborious task of pounding it on a wooden block. With the introduction of labor-saving machinery, the bark was ground in a mill turned by horse power, and the pulp-like powder was transported by a chain-carrier to vats seven by seven by five feet containing hot water and steam. This resulting lye with the addition of some acid was later drained off into vessels and emptied into special vats into which the hides were immersed. These vats were about the same size as the lime water vats. The strength of the mixture was determined by the amount of tannic acid put in it. The same ground bark could be used repeatedly. The hides were kept in these vats for a week or so. In the larger tanneries, there were as many as 100 such vats in operation simultaneously, and these were emptied and filled with hides according to a rotating schedule, each time being bathed in a solution of increasing strength by the addition of new liquor. After two such rounds, the tanning liquid had to be rebuilt so as to maintain its strength. These vats were in the nature of water-tight boxes, buried in the ground to the depth of about eight feet with the upper edge flush with the ground surface.

When the hides were removed from these tanning vats, they were exposed to the atmosphere on driers until

all the liquid was drained out of them. This consumed about five days. A knife cut on the edge of the hide showed whether the tanning fluid had completely penetrated the hide. After the tanning was completed, the resulting leather was removed to a "finishing room," where fish oils and greases such as tallow and lard were rubbed into the leather to replace those oils naturally found in skins but removed by the tanning processes. These hides were smoothed out and rolled for a long time, and the leather was then ready for use. The leather was then graded according to size, weight, and color. Probably the varying colors of the leather resulted from the bleaching in the vats according to the position of the hides. In the tanning of sheep skins, the skins were handled somewhat differently because the wool had to be retained and only the skin tanned. Whenever local people had hides tanned, either a cash amount was paid for the work or a certain amount of the leather was retained by the tanner as his pay. Then the leather was made into boots and shoes by a local or itinerant cobbler or made into harness by the local harnessmaker.

From the close of the Civil War to the late nineties, tanneries were quite common in various parts of the county. There was scarcely any community of any size without its tannery. The leather needed in the making of boots and shoes, harness, saddles, and other articles used in the home and on the farm was produced for the most part in tanneries of the local community. The itinerant cobbler and saddler with their work bench and tools, made their yearly rounds to meet the needs of their customers. Usually cattle hides were used in the making of leather but frequently the skins of sheep, goats, and fur-bearing animals were tanned for clothing, robes, and other articles of domestic use.

A list of tanneries in the county is here included primarily for the purpose of showing how numerous they really were at one time. Long as the list may appear, no doubt it is by no means complete. Selinsgrove and the immediate vicinity had at least three tanneries. Daniel Ulrich had a tannery located on the northwest corner of High and Sassafras Streets; a second tannery, owned and operated by Jonathan Ulrich, was located on the northeast corner of Pine and Water Streets; and the third tannery was located near the large spring a short distance west of the town.

Undoubtedly Freeburg and vicinity had more tanneries than any other equal area in the county. We have a record of at least seven tanneries in this area. Francis A. Boyer had a tannery at the northwest corner of Water and Market Streets in 1815. This tannery was owned later by Philip Boyer, and the tanning business was done by David Moyer. The vats were destroyed in 1865 and a garden now occupies the place where the vats were located. John Roush erected a tannery on the southeast corner of South and Front Streets in 1812. John Hilbish was the last owner of this tannery. The property was later owned by the Rev. C. G. Erlenmeyer. All evidences of this tannery have disappeared. Another tannery, located on the southwest corner of South and Front Streets, was erected by Col. Henry Straub in 1835. Later this tannery was owned and operated by Samuel Moyer and his brother, John Moyer. Upon the latter's retirement, Samuel Moyer became the sole owner. After operating it for some years, he closed the vats and tore down the building. A tannery was established by Henry Straub about 1835 on the southwest corner of North and Front Streets. Samuel Moyer owned this tannery in 1885. Another tannery existed on the corner of Water and Market Streets, dating back to 1815, and continued operation until 1865 when the vats were destroyed. A tannery was located on the corner of Front and North Streets. It was built in 1812 and operated until about 1855. A tannery was built in 1831 on a farm, one mile west of Freeburg, and continued in operation for about twenty years. Another tannery was located on a farm three miles west of Freeburg. It was built in 1828 and continued until 1848. Philip Moyer established a tannery in 1851, one mile northwest of Freeburg, on the road from Freeburg to Middleburg.

A steam tannery was operated in the western part of West Perry Township as early as 1865. A tannery was located on the North Mahantango Creek about a mile below Mt. Pleasant Mills. A tannery was located in Centerville (Penns Creek) in 1850. There was a tannery in Middlecreek Township, owned and operated by Antes Ulrich, a veteran of the Civil War. There was always at least one tannery in operation in New Berlin, the last one being owned and operated by James C. Schoch. George Motz had a tannery at the East End of Middleburg in the neighborhood of Stump's Run. Jacob Hassinger conducted a tannery near Adamsburg (Beaver Springs). Jacob Mey-

er had a tannery in the neighborhood of Beavertown. Samuel F. Lupper had a tannery in Beavertown south of the railroad station.

Not a single one of all of these old-line tanneries is in operation today. In course of time, newer and more improved methods of tanning were introduced and labor-saving machinery and devices were employed, so that the old-type tannery could no longer compete, and hence had to go out of business. The history of the tanning industry is very largely the history of practically every other industry that failed to keep in line with the march of progress. The only tannery that is operating today in the county is the one located in Middleburg, and this did not begin to operate until the turn of the present century. A brief account of this tannery is in order.

The Middleburg tannery came into existence in a rather round-about way. Jacob Paskusz of New York City, dealer in various kinds of leather goods, had a finishing plant at Newark, New Jersey, that used large quantities of leather in the manufacture of furniture, case strap and bag letter goods, ladies' belts, cases for surgical instruments, mail bags, ends of suspenders, and other novelties. He had obtained much of his leather from a tannery located at Lock Haven. When that tannery shut down, Paskusz had to look elsewhere for his supply of leather. Banks Dreese of Beaver Springs was an experienced tanner and an employee at the Lock Haven tannery at the time. He felt there was a place for a tannery in Snyder County that would be mutually profitable and beneficial to the owner and operator and to the laboring people and the business interests of the community. Through his personal contacts and business dealings with Paskusz, Dreese encouraged him to come to Snyder County to open a tannery for the manufacture of his own leather instead of depending on other tanneries for it. Cheaper labor and more economic living conditions in Snyder County had great weight with Paskusz. Paskusz had been paying \$1.50 apiece for tanning hides, but he discovered that the cost at Middleburg would not exceed one dollar per hide. All these conditions combined to convince Paskusz that he should build his tannery at Middleburg. It must be said that Banks Dreese was the man who brought the leather manufacturing industry back again to Snyder County.

In June, 1901, the Middleburg tannery became an

assured thing. Three acres and 133 perches of land, at the east end of the town and south of the Middle Creek, were obtained from Daniel Bolender as the site for the new tannery. Architect John F. Stetler received the contract for the erection of the buildings. The main building was a two-story structure with the vats on the first floor and the drying room on the second floor. In addition there were the leach house, the boiler and engine building, and the bark shed. The son of the owner and proprietor of the tannery was made the manager, and Banks Dreese became the superintendent. The capacity of the plant at first was about 100 hides per day but later this capacity was increased to 220 hides; the number of employees was increased from an original thirty men to fifty men. Modern machinery was installed and up-to-date methods of tanning were employed. The Middleburg tannery was an individually-owned and operated institution from 1901 to 1920.

Shortly after the close of World War I, Paskusz and his son began to experience financial difficulties and went into complete bankruptcy. The property was sold to Greenbaum and Collins, and this company has been operating the tannery up to the present time. This new firm has restricted its business to the production of sole leather altogether. This leather is shipped to a Philadelphia house where it is retailed to many different firm throughuot the country. It has also increased the number of employees to seventy-five men. The cause of the failure of Paksusz undoubtedly lay in the economic situation that prevailed in the transition from a war-time business to a peace-time condition. During the war days, the tannery had an enormous business in the nature of huge government contracts and made a great deal of money. During this period, prices were high and the profits great. In times of prosperity, there is the constant tendency for a business to over-reach itself in the belief that such prosperous days will last indefinitely. Paskusz evidently fell a victim to this belief. He stocked his plant too heavily with raw materials for which he paid excessive prices, and then afterwards had to sell the manufactured product at bottom prices, if indeed he could sell it at all. For example, he purchased hides in the war days at forty-two cents per pound and then after the close of the war, he didn't get even that much per pound for the finished leather. No wonder Paskusz lost

so much of his money that he became completely bankrupt and was compelled to dispose of his plant.

Some of the differences in the operation of a tannery need be pointed out during the past forty years. The fiesh on the hides was formerly taken off by hand by means of a fleshing-knife, but now it is removed wholly by machinery. Formerly the bark of the chestnut oak and hemlock were bought by the wagon-load from people in the near-by communities as well as shipped by the car-load from more distant places. Out of the ground bark was made the tanning liquid. Later on all this traffic in bark was replaced by imported extracts made from chestnut wood. At first the tanning process took about ninety days, but in course of time, the period was reduced to sixty days. No doubt the tanning process today is done too hurriedly to insure the best kind of leather.

The Shoe Manufacturing Industry in the County

Just prior to the turn of the century, Selinsgrove became one of a dozen or more towns in Eastern Pennsylvania in which the manufacture of shoes became an industry of great import. In 1898 T. H. Eisenhuth and W. H. Dreher started the manufacture of McKay sewed shoes in a two-story frame and brick building, located on the corner of North High and Snyder Streets, Selinsgrove. After a few years, Dreher withdrew from the firm, and Eisenhuth together with Harry Weis manufactured Women's Comfort shoes in a building which is now a part of the W. H. Groce Silk Mill on Sassafras Street. Following the withdrawal of Dreher from the firm, Dr. Frank J. Wagonseller, a Selinsgrove physician, became a partner with Eisenhuth. In a few years, he also withdrew and Edwin Bergstresser took his place in the partnership. The firm made McKay sewed shoes until 1904 when it began to manufacture Turn shoes. Most of the shoes made were Infants' Turns but some Women's Turns were also made. After continuing in the business in Selinsgrove for twelve years, Eisenhuth received an attractive offer to locate his factory in Williamsport. This offer came about for several reasons. It appeared that Eisenhuth did not have sufficient working capital of his own to carry on the shoe industry most economically and on a scale that would meet the demands of the market for his product. An expansion of the plant called for a larger supply of female labor than Selinsgrove appeared

able to supply. Accordingly, the machinery was moved to Williamsport, October, 1910, where he operated a factory for a number of years.

Following the closing of the Eisenhuth factory, a number of Selinsgrove citizens met and appointed a committee to make every effort to secure another shoe manufacturer to locate at Selinsgrove. After several months of negotiations, the R. E. Yeager Shoe Company, the manufacturer of Infants' Turn shoes in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, was induced to locate in Selinsgrove, and began operations in the spring of 1911. The factory was housed in the same building formerly occupied by the Eisenhuth Company and equipped with electrically-driven machinery. From eighty to one hundred people were employed, and the plant had a capacity of 300 pairs per day. In 1912, F. M. Machmer, Reading, Pennsylvania, became a partner, and this partnership continued until the death of Yeager in 1921 when Yeager's interests passed to his daughter, Mrs. D. Edwin Ditzler, whose husband acted for her in the conduct of the business. This business was liquidated in 1936.

From 1909 to 1928 Harvey S. Sterner, formerly a foreman of the Eisenhuth Company, operated a factory making Infants' Turn shoes in a building erected at the rear of his property on South High Street. The factory was equipped with electrically-driven machinery and employed about thirty people. From 1932 to 1934 two Brooklyn Shoe manufacturers, Thomas and Eyer, manufactured Women's high grade Turn shoes in the former Sterner factory.

While different types of shoes were manufactured at various times in Selinsgrove, by far the most shoes made were Infants' Turns. This type shoe got its name from the process used in its manufacture. The shoe was lasted wrong side out and then turned. In order to be turned successfully, the materials in the shoe, of necessity, had to be of the very best and the workmen especially trained and skilled. These shoes were flexible and comfortable on the feet of the children, and Pennsylvania was regarded as the State where the best children's shoes were manufactured, and the Selinsgrove factories shared in this reputation. Following World War I, many new shoe companies were formed in the Middle West and many new factories were erected in that area. Not being able to secure the skilled workmen necessary for the manufac-

ture of Turn shoes, these firms with almost unlimited capital, started the manufacturing of a cheaper grade of shoes on a large scale, and because of the lower selling price, took the Infant Shoe business from Pennsylvania manufacturers.

In 1899 the Main Shoe Company moved from Catawissa to Middleburg and began the manufacture of Children's Turn shoes in a building located on Main Street, near the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. A little later McKay sewed shoes were added. G. Alfred Schoch was the president of the company. From fifty to sixty men and women were employed. The factory was in operation only a few years.

The Silk Industry in the County

The Groce Silk Mill was started in Selinsgrove in 1914 under the title of William F. Groce, Commission Throwster. In 1931 Mr. Groce purchased the silk throwing mill in Port Trevorton. This mill has been operating continuously ever since, and is known as the William F. Groce, Inc., Commission Silk Throwsters. Both of these mills have always produced either silk or rayon yarns for the weaving trade. During the period of the World War II, they produced silk yarns for the manufacturing of parachutes, etc. Up to 1942 both mills operated exclusively on silk yarns brought from Japan, China, or Italy. After 1942 only rayon yarns have been produced.

The electricity for operating the mills at Selinsgrove and Port Trevorton is furnished by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company of Sunbury. The production of both mills totals about 22,000 pounds per week. Each mill has approximately 10,000 spinning spindles. The number of revolutions of these spinning spindles is 10,300 per minute. The Selinsgrove mill employs on the average about sixty-five men and fifty-seven women; the Port Trevorton mill employs about forty-two men and forty-nine women. The employees of the two mills are residents of the county.

There are silk mills in operation at Middleburg and Beavertown. F. Q. Hartman of Danville built and equipped the mill at Middleburg, and then turned it over to the B. Edmund David, Inc., in 1916, with William F. Prichard as the superintendent. The Middleburg mill is engaged in silk and rayon throwing; the Plaza mill at Beavertown and at Selinsgrove are weaving mills; the O. K. Hosiery

mill at Selinsgrove, as the name indicates, is a hosiery mill; the William F. Groce Inc., Commission Throwing mills at Selinsgrove and at Port Trevorton are spinning yarns for the weaving mills. The weaving mills produce cloth for women's dresses; the throwing mills produce the yarn for the weaving mills to weave the cloth. The weaving mills use looms while the throwing mills use spinning spindles.

The National Stone Works Near Paxtonville

These stone quarries are located about three miles west of Middleburg, on the Benfer Farm, near Paxtonville. John Clayton Stahl was the owner and the proprietor from 1915 to his accidental death in 1931. He came to this community in 1914 from Union County where he had been engaged in farming. He first began to deal in limestone and lime products near his Middleburg home. Later he purchased the Benfer Farm that contained a wellnigh inexhaustible ridge of the finest limestone. Here was erected a modern plant between the railroad and the public road, equally accessible to both of them. This plant has had a daily output of 1,000 tons of prepared road material, and has operated twenty-eight trucks to transport the crushed stone for use by the State Highway Department and by other builders and contractors.

Cider-Making

The cider mill was the means employed to obtain the juice of the apple in sufficient quantities for household use as a beverage, for vinegar, or for the making of apple-butter. The mill consisted of both a crushing and grinding as well as a pressing apparatus. The crushing or grinding portion was originally made up of two revolving cylinders of equal size, approximately one and one-half feet in diameter and two feet in height, made of solid oak wood and mounted upright in a frame between two planks placed above and below the two cylinders. One of the cylinders had a shaft about five feet long, extending upright, to which the power was applied to turn the two cylinders. Slots, six inches by one and three-fourth inch by one and one-half inch in size, properly spaced around and about each cylinder in exactly the same positions, were mortised into each cylinder. Into the slots of the one cylinder, wooden teeth were firmly fixed so that they fitted readily into the slots of the opposing cylinder. A

slanting hopper was mounted along the side of the two cylinders into which the apples were poured to be crushed between the two cylinders. Somewhat later on, the apples were ground by means of a machine containing a spiked cylinder, and the power to operate it was supplied by steam. Two stout beams extended from the upright shaft of the one cylinder. A horse was hitched to the one beam to turn the cylinders and tied to the other to keep him in his circular pathway as he went round and round during the act of crushing the apples. This crushing apparatus was firmly fastened near the one end of a plank box resembling somewhat in size and shape a wagon-box that served as a storage vat for the crushed apples.

The pressing part of the cider mill consisted of a raised platform of heavy planks, tongued and grooved together, about five feet square, and about three and one-half feet from the ground, usually supported by a foundation of stone masonry. Around the outer edge of this platform was a V-shaped trough cut in the heavy planks which had an outlet with a spout. An open wooden frame of boards about four and one-half feet square and seven inches high with triangular-shaped blocks in each corner to give it rigidity was placed in position on the platform well within the V-shaped groove. Flail-threshed rye straw in generous quantity was evenly distributed around the top edges of the frame so as to reach toward the center. A little later a cloth of burlap was used in place of the straw for this purpose. Then the frame was completely and tightly packed with the crushed apples. To complete the process, the straw was turned in over the crushed apples and a small quantity of the crushed apples was placed on the top to hold the straw in place. Then the frame was raised to a height equal to the first layer, and the process repeated in like manner for the second layer and so on until all of the crushed apples were used up. To do this successfully called for considerable care and skill on the part of the operators. Upon the removal of the frame, the top surface of the last layer was covered completely with planks. A system of blocks was then employed varying in height according to the remaining distance between the planks and the press beam.

The only portion of the cider mill that still remains undescribed is this press beam and its operation. On the one side of the platform two pieces of timber eight inches

by twelve inches in size and about fourteen feet high, were placed in an upright position and parallel to each other, and framed together at the top. These posts provided a hinge-like support for the one end of the heavy beam eighteen inches by twenty inches and about twenty-six feet long used in pressing the juice out of the crushed apples. In order to give this beam considerable flexibility, it was suspended at its other end on a high swivel nut that fitted on a threaded wooden shaft eight inches in diameter. At the lower end of this threaded shaft was a cage four feet by four feet by four feet filled with rock for the purpose of increasing the pressure of the beam. By means of this threaded shaft and by the use of the cage, the pressure beam could be raised or lowered at will. By lowering the pressure beam, the pressure on the piled mass of crushed apples was tremendously increased resulting in the juice of the apple flowing freely through the straw wrappings into the V-shaped groove, and from there through the outlet spout into a huge wooden funnel partially filled with rye straw to filter the juice from the pieces of apple, insects, and other extraneous matter that might be found in it as it flowed into the cider barrel.

It usually took about three days to make cider, one day to gather the apples, the second day to make the cider, and the third day to fetch the cider, and to tear down the stack, clean the press, and get things ready for the next succeeding customer. It was quite the thing for customers to arrive at the mill about daybreak to make the cider. The customers often were quite numerous so that a regularly-timed schedule had to be maintained to enable them to have their turn at the proper time. There were many such cider mills, practically one in every community throughout the county. During the cider-making season, these cider mills were in use almost daily, usually on a rental basis, and were operated by the person who supplied the apples but were under the direct supervision of the owner of the mill. In course of time, the owner of the mill also operated it and then charged the customer a certain price for making the cider.

Clock-Making and Clock-Repairing

Clock-making and clock-repairing was a good business in the early years of this country. Nearly every town of any size had its clock-maker and clock-repairer.

This was before the days of the factory system when most articles were made by hand or at least were manufactured on a very small scale. Undoubtedly the outstanding clock-maker in Snyder County was Michael Wittenmyer of Middleburg. His ancestors were Swiss emigrants who came to America from the Province of Alsace Lorraine. They landed in Philadelphia in 1750 and came to Penn Township, now Franklin Township, about 1776 and lived the life of farmers generally on a tract of land received from the Penn proprietors, extending from Swineford to Globe Mills. Michael Wittenmyer, the clock-maker, merchant, and musician, was the second son of George and Wilhelmina Wittenmyer. He was born in 1772, married, and was the father of ten children. The story is told that he bought a lot on a side street in Middleburg and began excavating the cellar for a house and store. While engaged in doing this, Albright Swineford, the founder of the town, remarked to him one day—"Your store should be located on the corner lot on Main Street." But Wittenmyer felt that he couldn't afford such a prominent place for his business. Swineford then remarked that if he would make him an eight-day clock and another twenty-four hour clock and give his present lot in exchange, he would give him the lot on Main Street. To this Wittenmyer agreed and erected a log building on it for his home and store. Years later this was replaced by a brick building that is still in use at the present day. Wittenmyer had his forge and workshop for his clock-making and clock-repairing in the cellar of the log house.

Wittenmyer made clocks as a hobby at first to supplement the family income. To increase his knowledge of clocks and to improve his skills in making them, he worked for some time as an apprentice in a clockmaker's shop in Reading. He travelled to Reading on horseback but soon returned home because his employer told him that he knew the business well enough to make clocks for himself. It is reported that he made at least forty clocks in his lifetime, one for each of his ten children and thirty or more for other people. The brass used in the clocks, he obtained in Reading and brought back home to Middleburg in his saddlebags. Michael Wittenmyer was much more than a merchant, clock-maker and musician, he took an active part in the life of his community and nation. He served as auditor in Penn Township in 1803, paymaster of the seventy-first regiment in the War of 1812, was the

first postmaster of Middleburg (1811-1824), and became a justice of the peace in 1829, serving a number of terms. He must have been a good and useful citizen of Middleburg.

In Selinsgrove, John Kern was probably the best known clockmaker. He lived in the first house ever erected in the town so far as can be known. This house was located on the south side of Pine Street, about half-way between Market and Water Streets. The house was demolished in 1870. J. Albert Shadle (1858-1942) of Mt. Pleasant Mills repaired clocks, made violins, guitars and mandolins for some forty years, and for thirty-five years was a justice of the peace in Perry Township. One of his hobbies was to make a collection of old clocks. It is said that he had in his possession a vast assortment of old clocks. Henry Renninger (1843-1933), who lived on a farm near Middleburg, was a clock-maker. He specialized in making grand-fathers' clocks. Some of his clocks were rather strange contrivances in that they showed not only the hour of the day but also the date of the months, the phases of the moon, etc.

Insurance Speculation in the County

In the early eighties of the last century, a grandiose but very vicious wave of life insurance speculation, marriage promotion societies, and so-called mutual aid organizations swept over the larger portion of our state, including particularly the territory of Snyder County. It appears almost unbelievable that within the short period of two years (1880 and 1881), at least thirty such associations were operating within the confines of Snyder County alone. At one time or another, Selinsgrove had nine, Middleburg had four, Beavertown had four, Adamsburg had two, Mt. Pleasant Mills had two, Freeburg had three, Port Trevorton had two, and McKees Half Falls, Salem, Kantz, and Shamokin Dam, each had one. There was at least one company in Snyder County for every 600 of the population. So prevalent were the companies in numbers and so menacing became the insurance epidemic to the business economy of the State that Governor Henry M. Hoyt, October 4, 1881, found it necessary to issue a proclamation that he would no longer issue charters to any mutual assessment company. If some wily trickster from somewhere had invaded the county with a scheme to change the sandstones into gold bricks and the limestone rocks into diamonds, and the

people had fallen for such magic, it would still be difficult to believe; but when the people themselves initiated and promoted such a fantastic, immoral, illegal, and economically unsound enterprise, then its comprehension defies the understanding of the best minds of the succeeding generations.

Snyder County was caught in the main current of the insurance speculation. The whole affair proved most unfortunate for the best interests of the county and for the social and moral welfare of the people generally. The speculation craze got started suddenly and unexpectedly and spent itself before the rank and file of the population had become aware of just what had actually happened. The scheme consisted in insuring the lives of people usually well-advanced in years, and who furnished a good guarantee of an early demise. The insurance was based on the mutual principle that the death losses would be paid by assessments on the surviving members of the organizations. For the most part, the companies did not possess any capital stock, and depended wholly upon nominal membership dues and the right to make assessments whenever money was needed to pay the beneficiaries. These companies were incorporated either by the State or by the local courts, or were not incorporated at all. County incorporation was not legally possible unless the concerns were non-profit making and State incorporation not legally permissible unless the companies could be classified as insurance companies, and hence come under the rules and regulations of the State Insurance Department. The truth of the matter is that most of them were illegal with respect to the incorporation and both illegal and immoral in their mode of operation.

Legislation as the Basis for Incorporation

These companies were incorporated or chartered under the provisions of the Acts of Assembly of 1873 and 1876, and the General Corporation Act of 1874. The act of 1873 laid down the necessary provisions for the establishment of an Insurance Department of the State. The Insurance Commissioner was charged with the responsibility of executing the law with respect to insurance. The Act of 1876 was a supplement to the law of 1873, and provided that any ten or more persons, citizens of the Commonwealth, might organize a company either on the mutual or stock principle. Annual reports had to be

made to the State Insurance Commissioner by these companies. The ten charter members were each required to take out \$20,000 insurance to make up the required insurance for incorporation. Then there was the General Incorporation Act of 1874 with all of its provisions. These three acts dealing with the incorporation of insurance companies caused a great deal of misunderstanding and confusion. There were no judiciary decisions at the time to clarify the meaning of the various sections. The question soon arose whether the companies were chartered under the act of 1873, or its supplement of 1876, or under the General Act of 1874. To clarify the situation, the State Insurance Commissioner asked the Attorney General to give a decision on the matter. He ruled that the Act of 1873 was intended to place all insurance companies under the jurisdiction of the State Insurance Commissioner. He further ruled that any subsequent legislation that might abrogate or repeal the Act of 1873 must be so stated in unmistakable language. He declared that the Act of 1876 was by no means intended as a substitute or a replacement of the Act of 1873 since it contained no repealing clause. In fact he stated that the Act of 1876 doesn't even imply a change of any previous statute, and that it had to be interpreted solely, plainly, and simply as supplementary to the Act of 1873. This legal interpretation clarified the atmosphere, and all these incorporations in question were considered as chartered under the provisions of the original act of 1873 and its supplement of 1876.

The main trouble was that all these companies were chartered under a law that didn't provide adequate restrictions. The Insurance Commissioner was simply required to pass upon the title of the proposed company, and much beyond that he had no legal authority to go. While many of the companies filed annual reports with the Commissioner, this was seemingly done with little regard for the requirements of the affidavits. Obviously, much of this legislation was not good because the laws could be easily perverted to unlawful purposes. The Insurance Commissioner repeatedly pointed out the more important shortcomings but the necessary legislation to put an end to any opprobrious practices failed to be forthcoming early enough to prevent the insurance scandals. In fact it appeared to give instead new encouragement to even more dishonest practices. The Commissioner in his annual report in 1881 states that "in spite of warn-

ings, these speculative companies continue to operate as though the failure to enact legislation to prohibit certain things was some sort of a legislative endorsement to keep on with the unjust and dishonest procedure”.

Kinds of Companies and Organizations

Among these companies and organizations were the Beneficial Societies for charitable purposes with the benefits paid to the beneficiaries in case of illness, disability, or death on the part of the insured. The Marriage Aid Societies were for unmarried persons to provide for their wants and comforts upon marriage. In some cases the county courts refused to grant charters to such organizations on the ground that mercenary marriages were immoral and ran counter to public welfare. There were at least five such companies doing business in Snyder County. Then there were the so-called Life Insurance Companies that proved to be mere gambling devices whose objective was to speculate in the lives of old people for the special benefit of the designated beneficiary.

General Plan of Operation

The companies were not required by law to have any fixed amount of capital stock to be incorporated, or in fact any capital at all. Some of the applications for charters specified that the insurable had to come within the age of twenty to eighty-five years while other applications made no mention of any age requirement at all. The mutual assessment plan did not make it necessary for a company to have any capital at all to carry on the business, not even a reserve fund. These companies carried on their business on a shoe-string. Whenever death claims were to be paid, the company simply assessed the surviving members a proportionate share that would total the amount of the claims. If all the members paid their assessments in full, then the claims against the company could be paid in full, otherwise only a proportionate amount was paid. The following cases may be cited to show how the plan actually worked in practice in Snyder County. George Shotsberger carried a policy of \$6,000 on the life of Henry Heinbach and received \$943; Andrew Kerstetter had a policy on his mother for \$10,000 and received \$366.60; Percival Lenig and a Mr. Shotsberger had a policy of \$3,000 on Joseph Lenig and received \$90; William Witmer carried a \$1,000 policy on his own life and upon his death his wife received \$38.87. With

this uncertain and haphazard way of doing business, the companies brought about very largely their own death knell through the loss of confidence in them by their beneficiaries.

Amount of Business Done by these Companies

Just how much business these mutual assessment companies did, there is no way of actually knowing. No doubt during the boom years, the business must have been very large. The Snyder County Companies had from eight to 1,348 policies in force at any one time, and from forty-five to 2,700 policies written during a twelve-month period in the years 1880 and 1881, ranging in amount of insurance from \$280,000 to \$6,108,500. It is well-nigh inconceivable for a company to have 576 policies in force, write 2,561 policies during the year, carry \$6,108,000 insurance on its members, and have only \$884 assets, and yet this condition was common among the companies. Quoting statistics of each of the companies about their financial condition tells the same old story over and over again.

Why the Companies were Dissolved or Went out of Business

Perhaps the only complete yet simple answer is that many of them failed completely to satisfy the intent and purpose of the law under which they were incorporated. Some of the companies failed to make annual reports as required by the law. In many cases the original subscribers never intended to take out \$20,000 insurance on their own lives; they simply undertook to find that amount of insurance for the company by planning to place that much insurance upon the lives of other persons. To quote the State Insurance Commissioner, such a procedure constituted "a scandalous perversion of the meaning of the law since its intent and purpose was to get the required amount of insurance upon their own lives and not upon the lives of others. This sort of thing has led to the vicious and illegal practice of speculative insurance so rife in the State". This is the first reason for the dissolution of the companies.

The second reason for the dissolution of these companies was the fact that the insurance based on the assessment plan permitted the issuing of policies where the company agreed to pay not a fixed and certain sum of

money, but a sum determined by the result of an assessment after the practice of the mutual aid or beneficial societies. The State Insurance Commissioner remarked on such a plan:

A sound policy of life insurance requires the company to provide absolutely and unconditionally for the payment of a certain sum at maturity. A mutual aid company that has no capital is not bound to pay any fixed sum on the death of a member but only so much as is voluntarily paid by those surviving from whom there is no means of collecting by law. The company is merely an agent to collect and to receive the money from living members for the use of the deceased. Beneficial companies are not insurance companies and have no right to insure; assessment life companies are not beneficial societies and are required to insure without qualification.

The third cause for the dissolution of these companies was their speculative nature as would-be life insurance companies. The Insurance Commissioner has the following comment:

The main purpose of the company is not the selection of good lives for insurance. The nearer the grave, the better the risk, the older the person, the higher the amount of insurance that was placed upon him. Those persons who have reasonable prospects of an early demise are alone wanted. This is worse than lotteries, faro tables, and other forms of gambling denounced as immoral and punishable by fines and imprisonment. It is gambling in human lives and furnishes the strongest incentive to worse crimes. This speculative fever has seized all classes. Farmers have sold their stock and mortgaged their farms to pay their insurance, and will not pay their bills to the merchants, as they expect soon to receive large sums at the death of some old man, and needed all their money to pay the assessments. When gambling upon human lives is permissible by law, no one can foresee the means that may be employed by the gambler to gain his ends. When none but the aged are insured to make reasonably certain to the beneficiary that only one or at least only a few assessments need be paid, then the entire sordid business becomes fraught with evil to the extreme. When the earliest possible demise of the insured proves to be financially the most lucrative for the beneficiary, the situation can easily lead to murder.

In fact this very thing actually happened in a number of cases. In Snyder County as well as in a number of neighboring counties, persons were charged with the death of a person by poison in order to obtain the insurance. In another county, an elderly man, neglected and much beyond the pale of respectability, was insured by several persons who designated themselves as the beneficiaries of the policy. In trying to go across a footbridge, accompanied by these persons, the aged man

was "pushed off" into the water, and to make absolutely certain of his drowning, he was even held under the water until life had become extinct. When the beneficiaries received their death claims, they hied away to a near-by saloon to make merry over their ill-gotten gains. They became hilariously drunk, indulged too freely in maudlin talk, suspicions became aroused, arrests and court trials followed, and the culprits terminated their lives on the scaffold.

A fourth reason why these companies were dissolved by the courts or voluntarily went out of business was the new legislation that imposed additional requirements upon their operation and made it increasingly more difficult to engage in speculation. A law in 1883 is a case in point. This law required all companies organized to insure lives on the assessment plan to secure applications for not less than \$500,000 insurance by not less than 200 persons, and to have two per cent of this total insurance or \$10,000 in cash deposited in bank to the credit of a mortuary fund of the proposed corporation for the cash payment of death claims, and applicable to no other purpose.

The fifth cause of the dissolution of these speculative life insurance companies was the influence of the local and higher courts of the State. It is true that their influence was much delayed and belated, but it nevertheless had its desired effect. Courts foreshadowed the doom of these speculative organizations long before court action against them got under way. When many of the companies began to see the handwriting on the wall, they surrendered their charters, and disbanded rather than wait for the inevitable with a probable penitentiary sentence thrown in for good measure. See Graveyard Insurance 104 Pa. St. 74—Gilberry vs. Moose Administrators.

The sixth reason for the dissolution of these speculative life insurance companies was a vast amount of evidence of dishonest and irregular practices on the part of the officials and representatives of some of the companies as well as the unfair and vicious nature of the operation of the system itself. The fraud practised by some of the companies was so pronounced that the Insurance Commissioner and the Attorney General proceeded against two companies in Dauphin County by writ of quo warranto to determine exactly their powers and obligations under the law, and of annulling their charters if found violating the provisions of the law. Investigations showed

misappropriation of funds and dishonest practices on a very large scale by companies at Harrisburg, Hanover, and Lebanon.

The seventh reason for dissolving the companies engaged in speculative life insurance was the force of public opinion. The newspapers of the time were very active in disseminating the growing mistrust in the insurance gamble. THE SELINSGROVE TIMES was in the vanguard in exposing the illicit companies and their unfair practices. A Sunbury paper denounced all life insurance companies as swindlers and frauds. Public sentiment against these local companies increased so rapidly that the companies themselves proved to be their own worst enemies. When persons began to sue companies for failing to receive the amounts agreed upon, the end came rapidly and inevitably.

The Era of Life Insurance Speculation Comes to an End

The Commissioner of Insurance began to threaten prosecution proceedings against the officials of any company that engaged in speculative life insurance. Official investigations presented such an array of facts detrimental to companies that when the case came in court for a hearing, the company consented to a decree of dissolution rather than run the risk of attempting a defense at all. The result was that such companies were dissolved by court decrees, and receivers were appointed to collect and to distribute their effects. These court proceedings had a tremendous influence upon other companies engaged in the insurance business of a speculative character. Policy holders began to discontinue the payments of the assessments, agents found it increasingly more difficult to discover willing subjects, the amount of business was much reduced, and finally the speculative insurance bubble burst. People began to realize if the charters of certain companies could be annulled, it might lead to the annulment of all the charters of speculative life insurance companies. In March, 1882, trouble with the law began to strike home in Snyder County when the officers of the Mahoney Mutual Assessment Life Association Company of Selinsgrove were bound over for court on certain charges against their insurance company. The result was that the company disposed of all of its property at public auction to preclude a court trial, and the com-

pany was dissolved by the Dauphin County Court. Court action had its desired effect. The Tenth Report of the Insurance Commissioner states that by 1882, of 236 companies incorporated, 171 were dissolved by the Dauphin County Courts, twenty-eight had voluntarily gone out of business and thirty-seven were still reporting to the Insurance Department. He states that the speculative business had practically come to an end. The companies insuring lives upon the assessment plan were either those that existed before the onset of the insurance mania or those who really endeavored to conform to the requirements of the law.

Consequences of the Life Insurance Speculations

The insurance epidemic of the early eighties in Pennsylvania ran true to style. All get-rich-quick schemes usually follow the same general pattern. They appear highly productive of much wealth in their beginning and tend to prognosticate years of unparalleled prosperity. For a brief period, they put much more than an ordinary amount of money into circulation. They enrich for the time being a few and ultimately reduce to poverty the many, if not all. No organization can produce something out of nothing. It is impossible to extract sunbeams out of cucumbers although sunbeams may enter into the composition of cucumbers. No scientist has yet been able to produce a machine of perpetual motion. We have no knowledge of any system of political economy by which all the people of a country can become millionaires. Usually the scheme of making some people rich results in making others poor. All bubbles burst ultimately. It is simply a question of when and where the bursting takes place. These visionary schemes begin in the mind of some ingenious but often unscrupulous individual. The fraud is perpetrated for a few years upon an unsuspecting people who unfortunately possess the same selfish desires until at last public opinion and the law put an end to it. It is amazing how many people can become engulfed in a scheme to plunder by setting aside for the moment all conscientious scruples in the mad rush for easy money.

This graveyard insurance scandal brought life insurance, as we know it, into disrepute with many people who are still living today. Some of the oldest residents of the county still shake their heads when life insurance is

mentioned to them. They will have none of it. To them life insurance signifies gambling in human lives, dishonesty, and unfair practices in human relationships, and merits nothing but condemnation. The lesson of the eighties is still with us. Will this lesson function when the need for it comes again?

The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company Project in the Shamokin Dam and Hummels Wharf Sections

The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company is now engaged in constructing a huge steam electric plant on the river bottom lands of the west shore of the Susquehanna River, extending from the Reading Railroad Bridge to Hummels Wharf or a distance of about 13,000 feet and covering about 260 acres of land. This plant is to cost about \$30,000,000, and is designed to generate 150,000 kilowatts of electricity. The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company is evidently preparing itself for the day when the age of electricity will be much more completely realized than it is today. The present gigantic project is the result of much long-range planning. In 1930 the company purchased this land and began to make preparation for the erection of this power and light plant. Additional purchases of land were made later on. The construction of this project is probably the greatest engineering operation that was ever carried on in this area.

The total project consists of the building of two railroads in addition to the erection of the power and light plant itself. While the power plant is by far the more important part of the operation, the construction of the railroad spur from the Reading Railroad Bridge southward to the plant area at the cost of about a million dollars constitutes a spectacular engineering achievement of the first order. This spur line could have been built at much less cost, labor, and danger by simply constructing it between the State Highway and the Susquehanna River. This plan, however, would have made necessary the narrowing of the river by at least eighty feet of its total width of 2,200 feet at that place. Making the river channel narrower, however, tended to increase the dangers of river floods in the Sunbury area, and for that reason alone was forthwith discarded as impracticable. Consequently, the only course left open was to build the railroad inside the State Highway. This could be done either by tunneling the Blue Hill or by removing a goodly portion of its

rocky precipitous face. This latter plan was finally adopted as the more feasible. If the Blue Hill were a completely solid mass of rock, it might have been undercut with its upper portion left in position but since it is not, there remained the constant threat of masses of loosened rock and slate sliding down without warning at any time and endangering human life. To make a roadbed possible for the railroad tracks, the removal of an enormous portion of rock and slate from its nearly perpendicular face became necessary. This constituted a stupendous as well as a hazardous piece of engineering. It proved hazardous since the men were required to work with compressed air hammers on the cliff-face where their foothold was often very insecure. The rock was blasted with dynamite, then scooped up with powerful steam shovels, and hauled away by large trucks and trailers and used as fill-in material. In addition the building of this railroad necessitated the construction of two bridges elevated fifteen feet above the roadbed. The construction of these overheads eliminated dangerous grade crossings. The first bridge was constructed on a long diagonal over the west shore State Highway, leaving enough space beneath for a four-lane highway; the second bridge was constructed over the approach to the Bainbridge Street River Bridge.

This Reading Railroad spur was constructed primarily for the transportation of anthracite coal from the main line of the Reading Railroad to the power and light plant. On the other hand the Pennsylvania Railroad spur was constructed for the transportation of building materials and coal from the Sunbury-Lewistown Branch at Selinsgrove to the power plant. This spur line was built upon its own land from the Isle of Que northward. Inside the plant area, the tracks are the possession of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company. The complete rail line extending from the Reading Railroad Bridge to Selinsgrove is a distance of about six miles, two miles of the Reading Railroad, two miles within the plant area, and two miles from the plant area to Selinsgrove. The construction of the two railroads constituted two operations entirely separate from each other as to operation and ownership but practically similar in purpose as inlets and outlets for the power plant.

Stretching out toward the north is located the coal storage yard largely serving as a reserve source of coal. It is nearly a mile in length, and has a capacity of about

one million tons of coal. Toward the south is the portion for the switch yards for the control of the distribution of electric power. The boiler house is 185 feet by 185 feet and 150 feet high with two stacks extending 150 feet higher or a total height of 300 feet above the ground. The boiler house is constructed on reinforced piers with a foundation on solid rock twenty-eight feet below the surface. There are four boilers and furnaces or steam generators, each with a capacity of 400,000 pounds of steam per hour. These boilers use up nearly two and one-half million tons of anthracite coal a year, or over 100 carloads of coal per day. The coal is pulverized, blown into the furnace, and burned in suspension. Enough steam is generated to turn two turbine-generators of 200,000 horsepower, each of 75,000 kilowatts capacity. The turbine house is 110 feet by 260 feet and has its floor of solid rock twenty-eight feet below the surface for the support of these giant generators.

Along the river shore extend huge dikes with their crest four feet above the 1936 flood level. The central area containing the buildings and the switch yard is also four feet higher than the highest level the river ever reached. At the upper and lower ends of the plot, the dike extends away from the river to high ground to afford protection for the plant area from floods. The work of building the plant was done by contract work. The chief works have been the buildings of these dikes, fill-in projects, the construction of the railroads, the concrete foundation work, the enclosing of the small creek flowing from a wooded hollow and passing the residence of T. J. Purdy, Esq., through the plant territory to the river, and the construction of the dam across the river to produce water for a power house to condense the steam exhausting from the generators. Gigantic as the plant now may appear, it is only one-third of its proposed ultimate capacity. The plans call for the construction of two other units, exactly like the first unit, each unit as large as the one already completed.

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CHAPTER 16

The Ways and Means of Transportation Roads and Waterways

Commerce defies every wind, outrides every tempest
and invades every zone.

—George Bancroft

Trails Through the Forest

Modes of transportation by land and water have always been found a necessity. In fact the methods of transportation and communication have been the makers and the promoters of civilization. These ways and means of transportation include the paths and trails through the forests, roads, railroads, canals, and the navigable streams and rivers. In the early days, traveling was done chiefly on foot along a trail in the forest or perchance by a canoe along the streams and rivers. Today a vast network of hard-surfaced roads and concrete highways may be found all over the country. The present courses of many of these roads and highways were in the long ago mere trails and paths through the forests, made by wild animals such as the buffalo, bear, and deer. These animal trails were subsequently used to good advantage by the Indians and later by the first settlers. Man soon discovered that the animals had mapped out for him the best routes, and that these animal paths constituted the surest, the shortest, and the best ways in getting across high mountains and large streams in the search for food and shelter. Unlike the human with his indispensable chart and compass as guides in a trackless wilderness, the ways and means employed by the animal to find his course seemed almost uncanny. In addition to his keen senses, there appears to be present in the animal some inherent characteristic, call it instinct or otherwise, that tends to guarantee his survival. These animal trails were followed by the Indians, and the white settlers in turn built their first roads on many of them. For example, the Great Road of 1770 connecting the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers was originally an old animal trail through the primeval forest, and the same may be said of many of the roads in use at the present day.

No doubt it would be both interesting and profitable to trace the important paths or trails in the entire Susquehanna Valley, and even in Penn's entire Province and

beyond, but that would be beside our purpose. The reader who has further interest is referred to a rather elaborate study by Charles F. Snyder* called the "Great Shamokin Path and Other Indian Trails which Radiated from the Forks of the Susquehanna". Consideration will be given only to those specific trails or paths that are found in the territory now known as Snyder County. An Indian path, known as the Paxtang Path, extended from Shamokin (Sunbury) down the east side of the river to Paxtang, later called Harris Ferry. At a place where Dalmatia is now situated, a branch crossed the river, and from the mouth of the Mahantango Creek, it extended across the McKee Plantation westward to the Delaware Run that empties into the Juniata River near the present site of Thompsettown. This was known as the McKee Path since it extended from his settlement on the east side of the river to his land on the west side. Another Indian path, known as the Susquehanna Path or Trail, extended southward from Shamokin on the west side of the river. Below the Middle Creek, it followed the ridge away from the river course over to the site of the present village of Verdilla, and finally returned again to the river at the Lower Herrold School House below Port Trevorton. From that place the path again followed the course of the river to the village of the Shawnees at the mouth of the Juniata River. It was along this path, near the old mouth of Penn's Creek, now known as the "Gut", that the John Harris party was ambushed upon its return from Shamokin following the Penn's Creek Massacre of 1755.

Two other Indian trails are of special interest. They are the Warriors or the Tuscarora Path and the Mahanoy Path. The Warrior's or Tuscarora Path extended southward from the Forks on the west side of the river, and after crossing Penn's Creek, extended through the valley on the south side of Shade Mountain to the site of the present town of Richfield where one branch extended to the Juniata River at the present site of Thompsettown, and the other branch extended to the site of the present town of Mifflintown. Branching off from the Tuscarora or Warrior's Path on the present site of Selinsgrove was another path known as the Mahanoy Path. It was so-called because the early name of Middle Creek was the Mahanoy. This path extended westward through the valley of the

*Proceedings of the Northumberland County Historical Society — 1944

Middle Creek to the headwaters of the Jack's Creek, and intersected the Juniata Path near the present city of Lewistown. One more trail in the territory now known as Snyder County demands some attention. This trail in the early records is sometimes referred to as the "Haines' Road" but probably could more appropriately be called the Penn's Creek Trail or the Kaarondinhah Path since it follows the creek throughout its entire course. This trail led up the first ravine of the Blue Hill, now recognized as the boundary line between Union and Snyder Counties; through Dry Valley, site of the present town of New Berlin; along Switzer Run through White Springs, Hartleton, Laurel Run, and the Seven-Mile Narrows into Penn's Valley in Centre County. This was the trail used by the Delaware Indians in reaching this section to perpetrate the atrocities known as the Penn's Creek Massacre.

Roads and Highways

Roads and public highways have long since largely taken the place of these Indian Trails or Paths. The interesting thing to keep in mind is the fact that the location of the path or trail was determined first by the wild animals, then by the American Aborigines. Finally these trails and paths determined the location and direction of many of our roads of the present day. Later generations probably have often wondered about the course of many of these old dirt roads in the rural sections. Why weren't they more nearly straight from their very beginning? It has to be borne in mind that most of them were these primitive trails and paths, originally determined by the wild animals before the advent of civilization. No doubt the contour of the land had much to do with their direction since modern machinery for road-building was a thing then wholly unknown to man. While the unimproved roads in rural areas are still the same winding ways, the main highways of travel have for the most part been straightened and re-located so that they bear little or no semblance anymore to their original locations and directions.

So long as traveling and transportation were largely limited to horseback and pack trains, not so much attention was given to road building. Wagons were not common prior to the last quarter of the eighteenth century largely because of poor roads. Home-made carts drawn by an ox or a horse were the first vehicles of transporta-

tion used in this area. As the population increased and artisans and merchants began to come into the territory, farm life became more highly specialized and more dependent upon others, and better means of transportation became necessary. Dirt roads were built, but even these were almost impassable at certain seasons of the year. The opening of a large amount of territory in Central Pennsylvania for settlement necessitated the building of roads as a mode of travel and transportation. Settlements



Before the Days of Improved Roads

had to have access to one another as a means of protection and mutual well-being. Roads had already been constructed between Reading and Fort Augusta and between Lancaster and Harris Ferry. A great need developed for a road between Ft. Augusta and Carlisle, the county-seat of Cumberland County. In 1772, Northumberland County was formed out of Cumberland, Lancaster, Bedford, Berks, and Northampton. County officials had to travel between these different county-seats, and more roads became necessary. This need existed irrespective of whether counties belonged to the same or different judicial districts. Also the distances between these seats of justice made the administration of justice and the preservation of law and order more difficult.

Upon the organization of the new county, steps were

taken to build roads that would connect all parts of these counties as well as connect the county with neighboring counties. This matter of building roads was placed in the hands of a commission of six citizens "to view and if they saw cause, to lay out a road from the town of Sunbury to the mouth of the Mahantango". These were the old dirt roads with their deep water courses diagonally across them which made them ill-adapted for speedy vehicular traffic. In May, 1773, Peter Hosterman, George Wolf, Samuel Hunter, and Casper Reed reported favorably on the proposed road from opposite Sunbury to the mouth of the Mahantango Creek, on the west side of the Susquehanna River, and their report was approved by the court. This board of viewers had been appointed in May of the preceding year. The road was known as the "Great Carlisle Road", the "Great Highway", or the "Sunbury and Carlisle Road". The road followed the course of the present road from Sunbury to the Middle Creek below Selinsgrove. A short distance south of the creek, the road turned westward away from the river and over the hills of Union Township and joined the river again at Chapman. It has to be remembered that the course of the road over the hills followed the old Susquehanna Path or Trail from the Middle Creek to Chapman. This was probably done to avoid the river lowlands and was also considered safer with respect to Indian attacks. At first even this road was used only for horseback and foot traveling, and not for wagons and coaches. It should be added that all four of the commissioners lived in Northumberland County, and three of them lived in territory that later on became Snyder County. Samuel Hunter lived at Ft. Augusta, Casper Reed lived below Port Trevorton, Peter Hosterman lived in Selinsgrove, and George Wolf lived at Hummels Wharf. This Carlisle Road was the main highway of travel on the west side of the river until the days of the canal.

The First State Road

The first application for state-aid in the building of roads was made to the State Department of Highways by Snyder County in 1903. The petition asking for the improvement of the road contained 127 names, the first signature on the petition being that of R. C. Fiss, civil engineer, and later road contractor. In that year the General Assembly enacted legislation providing for ap-

propriations for the improvement of roads. This first application covered the improvement of a piece of road then located in Monroe Township, which extended from the general store in the town of Shamokin Dam to the Bainbridge Street bridge across the river at Sunbury, or approximately a distance of 2,500 feet. The road today is located entirely within the borough of Shamokin Dam (incorporated in 1927). The contract was awarded March 24, 1904, to Newton E. Hartman of Shamokin Dam for \$3,080.35 and the work was completed September 3, 1904. The type of construction called for a macadam road eighteen feet wide, with a five-inch native stone base surfaced with two inches of limestone. The ground was broken by the Hon. Joseph W. Hunter, the State Commissioner of Highways.

The actual cost of building this road was \$3,756.24 of which the county paid sixteen and two-thirds percent; the township, sixteen and two-thirds percent; and the state, sixty-six and two-thirds percent. The cost of surveys was \$43.75, of advertising was \$20, of inspection was \$113.38, and of engineering \$15.09. All combined make the total cost of the road \$3,948.46, or \$1.58 per lineal foot. In 1905 Snyder County had 890 miles of public road, but no toll roads.

With the improvement of roads came the stagecoach. The road from Harrisburg to Northumberland was a much-traveled one. This is evidenced by the fact that between Selinsgrove and Northumberland alone, a distance of about seven miles, in the days of the stagecoach, there were no less than nine taverns along the way. There was a stagecoach line between Northumberland and the Lewis-town Area by way of Bannerville. There was another stagecoach line between Selinsgrove and Mifflintown to connect with the Pennsylvania Railroad at that place. The stagecoach fares of the Selinsgrove and Mifflintown Stage Line in 1868 were from Selinsgrove to Kantz, twenty-five cents; to Freeburg, fifty cents; to Freemont, one dollar; and to Richfield, one dollar and a half. Two daily stage coaches passed through Sunbury, one to Philadelphia by way of Pottsville and the other to Philadelphia by way of Harrisburg. Persons leaving Sunbury at nine A. M. reached Philadelphia on the afternoon of the following day. Selinsgrove was a relay station between Harrisburg and Northumberland in the days of the stagecoach

mode of travel and transportation through the Susquehanna Valley. The horses were changed at the "Old Davis Hotel" on South Market Street in Selinsgrove. The arriving and the leaving of the stage, drawn by four horses, proved an event of great community interest. A crowd of townsfolk usually assembled to greet the passengers and to see the replacing of the jaded horses with fresh ones. A little later this mode of transportation was replaced by the packet-boat on the canal and still later by the railroad.

Helen V. Kapp has provided an excellent account of transportation by stage coach, and much of the data given here has been borrowed from her article. She was in a position to have first-hand information since her father, A. E. Kapp of Northumberland, owned and operated a stagecoach line between Harrisburg and Williamsport along with William Calder of Harrisburg. The operation of such a line involved a considerable outlay of capital for the times. The coaches were drawn by four horses and accommodated fourteen passengers, nine inside the coach and five outside. The rate of travel was from four to five miles per hour. It took about nine hours to travel from Williamsport to Northumberland and about twelve hours to travel from Northumberland to Harrisburg. Horses were exchanged about seven times between Williamsport and Harrisburg. The hotel-keepers and drivers collected all fares. It was their business to make certain that no passenger got on a coach without paying the fare. The fare was about four cents per mile. The driver had a list of the passengers, their names, amount paid for the transportation, the places from which they came, and the places to which they were to be taken. A horn was blown to announce the arrival of the stage coach at the town. Regular meals were served for twenty-five cents and luncheons for twelve cents to the passengers at the taverns along the way. When the railroad was operating between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, the stage coach traveled only as far as Clarks Ferry on its trip southward. The stage coach carried the mail as well as passengers. Northumberland served as a distributing point for both the mail and passengers. From Northumberland, the mail was delivered to Sunbury by wagon. Passengers remained overnight at Northumberland. There were stage coach lines operating between Northumberland and Pottsville, Danville, Mifflinburg, and Lewistown.

Water Transportation

The Susquehanna River was declared a public waterway by an Act of the Assembly March 9, 1771, and a commission was appointed to make the needed improvements in the river and in the bodies of water flowing into it. The means of transportation were sailboats, arks, rafts, flat-bottomed boats known as bateaux, and flatboats. Sailboats were used on the Susquehanna River at the turn of the eighteenth century. Frequently a horse was used to tow the boats in periods of calm, and at other times when not in use, the horse was stabled on the boat. The creeks and the river were used extensively for the transportation of freight and to some extent for the transportation of passengers. In fact very much of the transportation was by water, especially when long distances were involved on account of the poor roads. Water ways have always been the great highways of commerce and trade. This explains why most of the important towns became located on lakes, seas, and rivers. The evolution of transportation and travel by water constitutes an interesting story. At first the Indians paddled their canoes along the shores, then came the white man with his boats, then canals were built for use in the open seasons while the stage coach and the Conestoga wagon were used on land during the winter months, then came the railroad, the motor trucks, and last of all air-traffic. The early means of transportation were by sailboats, arks, rafts, packet boats, and lastly by steamboats.

The arks were long narrow boats, approximately sixty feet long and from five to six feet wide, that floated down with the current and were steered by poles. The floor and the sides of the ark were constructed of hewn timber, and the seams or joints were caulked with pitch and tar to make them perfectly watertight. The ark had a roof made of boards. Arks were used to transport during freshets the farm products from the valleys of the tributaries of the Susquehanna River to Selinsgrove and other river markets. The cargo consisted mainly of grains and perchance flour produced by the flour and grist mills in the local community and shipped in homemade barrels. The crew of an ark consisted of a pilot, a steersman, and a bowsman. The arks were usually sold with their cargo when the destination was reached. Manned by other crews, they then proceeded to Philadelphia. The crew of the ark returned home afoot immediately in order to

take advantage of the freshet for a second or even a third trip. In this way the farmers of the hinter-land of these valleys found an outlet for their crops.

During the winter season, the stage coach was about the only means of transportation for passengers while at other seasons of the year passengers traveled on packet boats on the canals. The packet boat was a double-decker, somewhat similar to a small houseboat afloat, painted white, about eighty feet long and twelve feet wide, and had a capacity for about 150 passengers. There were twenty windows on a side, each window being protected by shutters painted green. The boat had accommodations for serving meals and provided sleeping quarters for the passengers. Three packet boats were running between Harrisburg and Williamsport on a regular schedule. The crew of a packet boat consisted of the captain, two steersmen, two bowsmen, one steward, two cooks, and one chambermaid. The boats were drawn by three horses, driven continually at a trot, and these horses were exchanged about every fifteen miles. There were about seven exchanges between Harrisburg and Williamsport. These exchanges in Snyder County were the Log Grocery at the Aqueduct, Port Trevorton, and Hummels Wharf. Later on these boats ran only to Duncans Island, now Clarks Ferry, where they met the railroad trains running between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. Packet boats left Williamsport in the evening and reached their destination eighty-seven miles south, about noon of the following day. The fare was two dollars.

Steamboats on the Susquehanna River were first attempted in 1825 by Peter A. Karthaus, owner of a tract of land at the headwaters of the West Branch, and by Tunison Coryell of Williamsport. Experiments were made with two steamboats, the "Codus", built at Baltimore; and the "Susquehanna", built at Philadelphia. The steamboat "Codus", with much difficulty, ascended the West Branch as far as Williamsport, and the North Branch as far as Wilkes-Barre and Binghamton, New York, and returned safely. The "Susquehanna" was a larger boat than the "Codus" and in an attempt to pass the rapids in the North Branch at Nescopeck in 1826, the boiler exploded, completely wrecking the boat and killing or seriously injuring many of the passengers and crew. This disaster seemed to terminate all attempts to use steamboats on the Susquehanna River generally. Upon the

construction of the dam across the river at Keensville (now Shamokin Dam), a small boat was used on the river at Selinsgrove prior to the time of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad. Boat-builders from Pittsburgh came to Selinsgrove to build it. It was used to transport passengers across the river to the station of the Northern Central Railroad. Low water soon put it out of commission and it fell into disfavor. This boat was about fifty feet long, had a flat bottom and side-wheels. It was christened "The Susquehanna" by A. C. Simpson and the occasion afforded a great celebration as an epoch-making event in the history of the local community. The passengers for the North Central Railroad were then ferried across the river until the completion of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad in 1871. In 1885 there were two chartered ferries across the Susquehanna River at Port Trevorton. The first was chartered in 1870 and the second in 1885.

Aside from the temporary makeshifts of steamboats to ferry people across the river, the usual procedure was for the people to drive to Shamokin Dam and there ferry across the river to Sunbury. They left their teams in the care of the hotel hostler or stabled them in some barn in the neighborhood of the dam. When the ferry was not running, these people had to drive to the Blue Hill opposite Northumberland and cross over the bridge there. The main landing for the steamboat at Sunbury was at the foot of Market Street where a little ticket office and "stiles" caught the fares of all the passengers going to and fro from the river boats. Upon the return of the boat, it passed under the Reading Railroad bridge and across the river to the Old Ferry House, and from there to the lower landing at Shamokin Dam. The names of the boats, which were interesting, included the Arrow, Amanda, Queen, Rover, and the Ira T. Clement. The boats operated from early spring to early winter from 6 A. M. to 9 P. M. The river bridge between Shamokin Dam and Sunbury was not built until 1906.

The dam across the river afforded a picturesque sight. When the dam was partially destroyed in the flood of 1889 and completely destroyed in 1904 by an ice-gorge, the entire scene became changed. The water then sank many feet, the riff-raffing around the piers of the Reading Railroad bridge came into full sight, and the flood dykes presented an unsightly appearance. With the disappearance of the dam, there were no more steaming ferry boats

crowded with passengers, pulling a flat loaded with farm wagons, buggies, and bicycles.

The Pennsylvania Canal Within the Territory of Snyder County

Preliminary Preparation

A felt need was recognized for many years for certain internal improvements in the State in the nature of inland waterways. In consequence an act of the legislature, March 27, 1824, made provision for the appointment of commissioners for the purpose of promoting the internal improvements of the State. Many canals were planned for the State under the provisions of this act. That portion of the Pennsylvania Canal from the mouth of the Juniata River along the west bank of the Susquehanna River to Northumberland, or a distance of thirty-nine miles, was built under the provisions of the Act of 1824. Another Act of the State Legislature, March 24, 1828, provided for a board of canal commissioners "authorized and required on behalf of the Commonwealth, as speedily as possible, to locate and contract for making canals, locks, and other works necessary thereto". This same Act of 1828 provided for the building of the bridge across the West Branch from Blue Hill to Northumberland to serve the double purpose of a vehicular highway and a towing path for the Pennsylvania Canal. It also furnished the basis for the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal from Northumberland to Bald Eagle on the West Branch and from Northumberland to the New York State boundary line on the North Branch. After extensive surveys made in 1824 and 1825, the State entered upon the construction of a large program of internal improvements covering a period of fifteen years.

The Board of Canal Commissioners of 1828 was authorized to connect the navigation of Penn's Creek with the proposed Pennsylvania Canal. This was done to facilitate trade with areas along the tributaries of the Susquehanna River. On September 23, 1830, an act was approved to incorporate the Penn's Creek Navigation Company, and a number of citizens were designated to build a canal or otherwise improve the creek navigation so that arks, rafts, and boats could readily pass from the Pennsylvania Canal into Penn's Creek, and up that stream to Solomon Kleckner's dam at New Berlin. It appears that this project was never undertaken. The dam across the

Susquehanna River below Sunbury was built at the time of the construction of the canal to provide water for the canal. It was 2,783 feet long; nine and one-half feet high, and had a chute 650 feet long, and sixty-two feet wide. It provided a passage way for arks, river boats, and rafts. It broke twice in 1831. Its total cost was \$82,500. This dam remained until the spring of 1904 when it was washed away by an ice gorge and thus brought to an end all canal traffic.

Why the Canal Was Built

The great influx of white settlers into the territory drained by the Susquehanna River and its tributaries following the Revolutionary War opened up this area to trade with the other sections of the State. The roads through the wilderness were practically impassable at certain seasons of the year and water transportation during the winter months was impossible. As production increased, there arose an increasing demand for a quicker, less hazardous, and better way to get the goods to the market. Sentiment grew in favor of canals because of knowledge of their extensive use in the European countries from which these settlers had come.

The original purpose of the canal was for the transportation of coal, iron, lumber, grains, and not for that of passengers. The coal was shipped in large quantities from Nanticoke to the mouth of the Juniata River, to Columbia, Havre De Grace, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. A large portion of the coal shipped on the canal was brought from the Shamokin, Mt. Carmel, and Trevorton areas by the Trevorton, Mahanoy and Susquehanna Railroad to the Susquehanna River near the mouth of the Mahanoy Creek. Then by means of a wooden bridge across the Susquehanna River at Port Trevorton, a connection was made with the Pennsylvania Canal on the west side of the river. When the bridge became unsafe and was taken down by the company in 1870, a marked decline in the coal traffic of the canal occurred. The lumber and railroad ties came largely from the Williamsport and Lock Haven areas. This business did not demand, to the same extent, the use of a canal as a waterway since the rafting of logs could readily be accomplished on the river.

The Building of the Canal

The construction of a vast system of canals proved a

gigantic undertaking for the State. The Pennsylvania Canal and its branches extending from Columbia, Lancaster County, to Northumberland, and thence along the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River to the areas of Luzerne and Clinton Counties, consisted of 144 miles of navigable waterways with a width of fifty-two feet. The Pennsylvania Canal was considered a model of canal construction and navigation. The canal had sixty locks in all to overcome 277 feet of elevation; seventy-three waste-ways and overflows, covering 7,322 feet of service; 309 bridges; seventy-one culverts; five dams across large streams; thirty-three aqueducts comprising 3,832 feet of superstructure 193 canal boats; nine lumber boats; and ninety-nine houses for its employees. There were locks at Northumberland for the canals on the North and West Branches. At Northumberland were located the weigh house for the cargoes, and the toll gate.

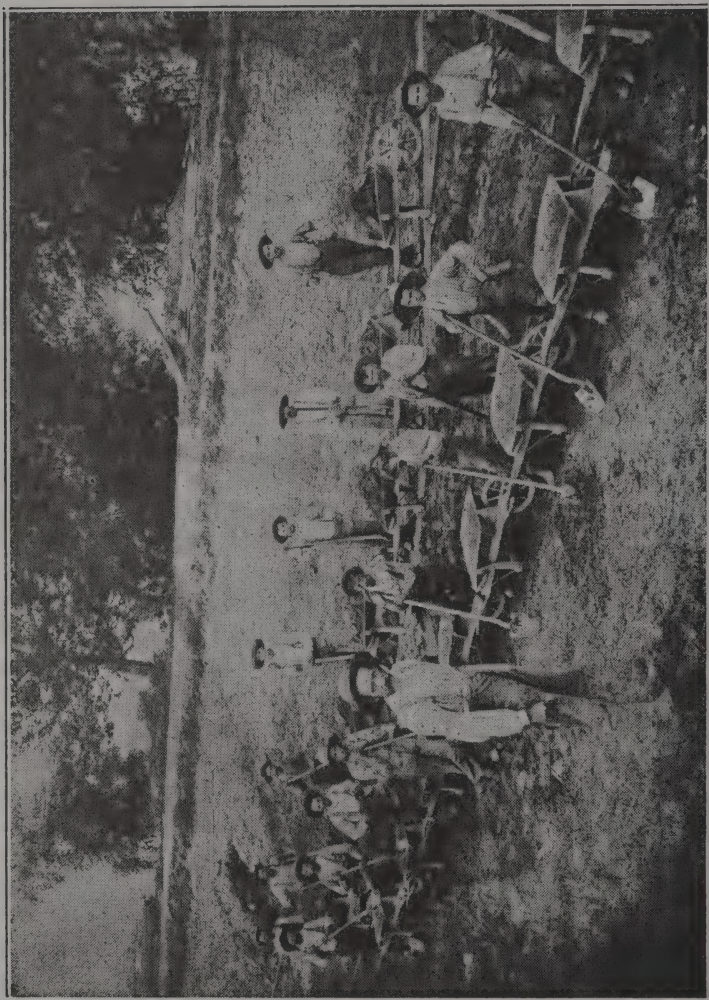
The weighing of a canal boat with all its freight appears to have been a difficult and laborious task, and yet it was very simple indeed. A boat loaded with coal to be weighed was pulled into the weigh dock and when the water was let out of the dock, the boat rested on the scales. Knowing the weight of the boat without any cargo it was simple mathematics to find out the weight of the cargo. After the weighing, the water was let into the dock again. The boat was then raised to the level of the canal water and was floated out into the canal.

It is expedient to get a general picture of the entire system of the canal under consideration, in order to understand the section known as the Susquehanna Division within the territory of Snyder County. This network of canals consisted of four principal systems of canals and waterways. One system extended from Philadelphia by the Schuylkill River to Reading, and from there by the Union Canal through Lebanon to the Susquehanna River below Harrisburg, and then to Columbia, Middletown, Harrisburg and Duncans Island. From there, the Juniata Branch extended to Lewistown, Huntingdon, Hollidaysburg, Johnstown, Blairsville, Pittsburgh, New Castle, Meadville, and Erie, or a distance of 543 miles, of which 118 miles were by railroad, twenty-eight miles by the Ohio River, and 397 miles by canal. The Allegheny-Portage Railroad extended from Hollidaysburg over the Allegheny Mountains to Johnstown, a distance of thirty-six miles, and overcame an elevation of 1,398 feet at Hollidaysburg

and 1,171 feet at Johnstown. There were five inclined planes on each side of the summit and eleven levels or graded lines of railroad construction connecting the planes. Horse power was used on the short levels and locomotive power on the longer levels. The canal boats, built in sections, were thus carried across the mountains. The second system extended from Duncans Island at the mouth of the Juniata River northward along the west shore of the Susquehanna River through Liverpool, Port Trevorton, and Selinsgrove to Northumberland or a distance of thirty-nine miles. The third system extended from Northumberland along the North Branch to two miles below Wilkes-Barre, but later extended through Pittston, Towanda, Athens, to the New York State Line or a distance of 324 miles. Ninety-one miles were by railroad and 234 miles by canal. The North Branch route was originally fifty-five miles in length. It had seven locks to overcome the elevation between Northumberland and Nanticoke. The fourth system extended from Northumberland to Muncy or a distance of twenty-six miles, but later extended through Williamsport, Jersey Shore, and Lock Haven, to the mouth of the Bald Eagle Creek. There was a cross-cut, three-fourth of a mile long, connecting Lewisburg with the main line at Montandon. The first system opened up the rich agricultural lands of Lancaster and Dauphin Counties, the iron-ore regions of the Juniata River, and the bituminous coal fields of the Conemaugh, Kiskiminetas, and Allegheny Rivers; the second system provided an outlet for the hard coal from Shamokin, Mt. Carmel, and the Trevorton regions; the third system opened up the Wilkes-Barre area; and the fourth system opened up the iron ore of the Bald Eagle Valley and the bituminous coal mines and lumber belts of that region.

Only that division of the Pennsylvania Canal that extended from Duncans Island to Northumberland claims our direct consideration in this account. Considerable discussion ensued whether this canal should be built on the east or the west side of the Susquehanna River. The work of building this canal was placed in the hands of Simon Guilford. He was instructed to find out the practical feasibility of constructing the canal on either side of the river or in part on both sides, and to ascertain whether the river could be advantageously crossed at any intermediate points. A survey showed that the west side was preferable because of certain natural advantages as well

as the costs of construction. It was estimated that a canal along the east bank of the river would cost \$1,018,758 as against \$472,298 along the west bank. Dauphin and Northumberland Counties contended strongly for the canal on the east side but the difference in the cost of



Digging of the Pennsylvania Canal by Hand

construction left no choice in the matter. The figures covering the cost of construction of the canal on the east side would be considerably more than double the cost of the canal on the west side. This increased cost made the canal on the east side simply prohibitive and was forthwith rejected by the Canal Commissioners despite the

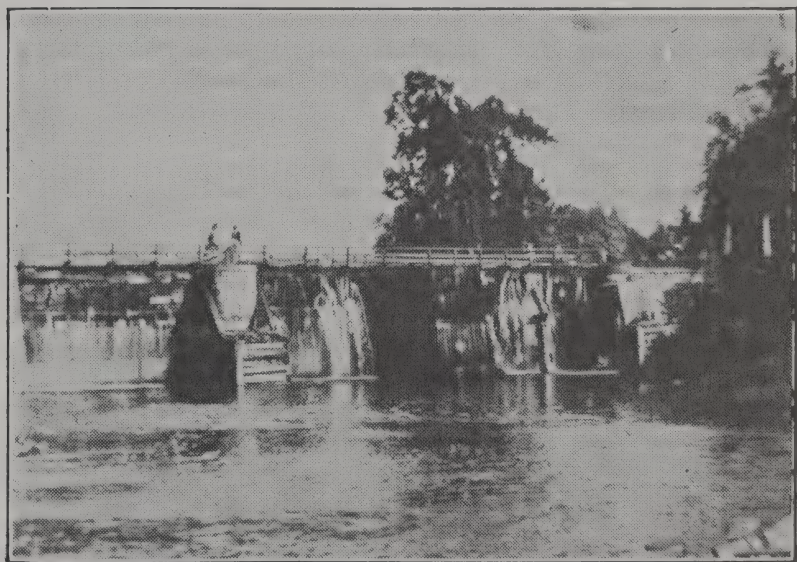
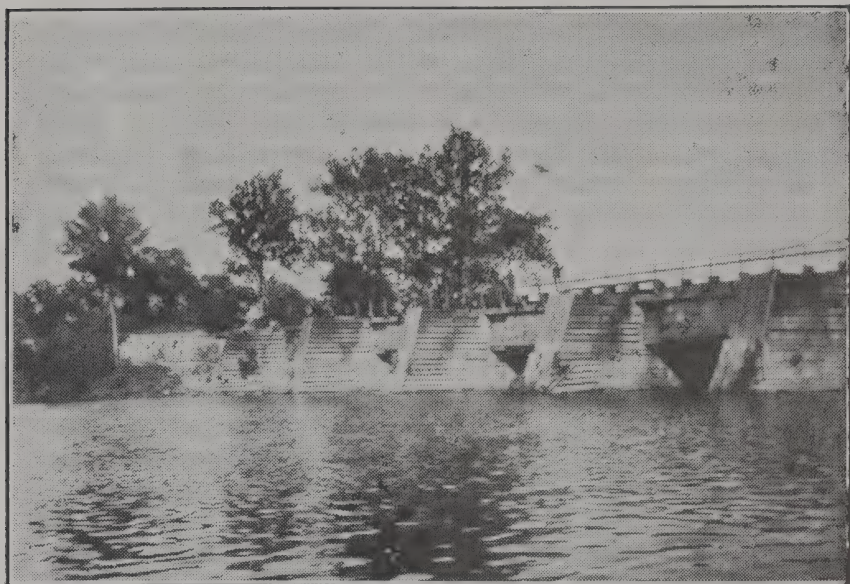
pleas of Northumberland and Dauphin Counties to have it otherwise. The cost of construction and the practicability of having the canal for part of the distance on the one side and for the remainder on the opposite side were also considered but in like manner rejected. There was great rejoicing when the decision was reached to build the canal on the west side through what is now known as Snyder County. Ground was broken July 4, 1826, at Harrisburg, for the construction of the contemplated canal.

Before long, vast hordes of laborers were at work in the digging of the canal. Imported labor, supplemented by local farm and town labor, dug the canal by hand and horse-power, using pick, shovel, plow, scoop, drag, and dump cart. The contracts called for a canal with a width of forty feet at the top water line and twenty-eight feet at the bottom with a depth of six feet. The tow-path was to be ten feet in width. The locks of solid masonry were to be ninety feet long and seventeen feet wide. Locks were located at Shamokin Dam, Port Trevorton, Chapman (William's Lock), and at Mahantango Creek, the southern boundary of the county. The Mahantango Lock was located on the north side of the creek. Below Selinsgrove, at the lower end of the Isle of Que, was a 400-foot aqueduct across the creek. The canal boats were on the average about eighty feet long, fourteen feet wide, and eight and one half feet in height, and had a capacity varying from 100 to 150 tons of mined coal. These boats were drawn by mules hitched at tandem. The work of building the Division was begun in 1827 and was completed in 1832. So rapidly did the construction work proceed that the Philadelphia Inquirer, October 18, 1829, reported "that the water now in the canal is past Selinsgrove and Liverpool, and pleasure boats are passing between Selinsgrove and Northumberland". Hazard's Register for October, 1829, states "the water is now flowing down the Susquehanna Division of the Pennsylvania Canal. The water was first introduced two weeks ago, and is now three feet deep at Selinsgrove, and already last Saturday passed down the canal as far as Liverpool. No break or defect of any kind has been found though the water now occupies the canal for a distance of twenty-seven miles". It is reported that the first boat placed in the canal at Selinsgrove upon its opening for navigation was the property of William Gaugler. The boat was brought over from Penn's Creek and used for excursion purposes.

At the risk of repetition it may be interesting to trace the course of the tow path of the canal from Northumberland to the Mahantango Creek. The tow path for the mules that pulled the canal boats across the river at Northumberland was located on the south side of the covered bridge over the West Branch. This path was heavily railed, and the rope by which the mules tugged the canal boat slid on this heavy but smooth railing. From the river bridge southward for about two miles, the tow path followed the slopes of Blue Hill along the dirt road. It then crossed an overhead bridge and followed the course of the canal on its east side. South of the Shamokin Dam lock lay what was known as the "Eleven-Mile" level to Port Trevorton. The course of the tow path passed the old "mud dam" or the former mouth of Penn's Creek. To its right stood the Old Maine Saw-mill with its huge basin filled with water for the mill. A wicker gate permitted the logs that floated down the canal from the dam across the river at Shamokin Dam to be directed into the basin for the mill. The course of the tow-path continued southward past Dundore, through the Port Trevorton locks to the William's locks at Chapman, then through Independence to the Mahantango Creek.

The Activities of the Canal

The construction and operation of the canal provided employment for many people of the vicinity. It served as a great impetus to business transaction on this area. It was productive of great industrial activity. The canal brought much business to the shipping ports along its course. Prior to the building of the canal, transportation by water was by means of flats, arks, and batteaux. Now the canal became the chief artery of travel and transportation until the winter season closed navigation. In addition to the boats for freight, packet boats for the transportation of passengers were operating on all three branches, partially replacing or at least supplementing the stage coach. Because of this increased activity, the Northumberland Bank was organized in 1831, and served as the only bank in this section of the state for a number of years. To show the extensive activity on the canal, it is said that on the two miles of the canal from the lock at Chapman to Port Trevorton, thirty-eight men and nineteen boys were employed in the work of the canal, and nineteen boats were in use. At McKees Half Falls there were about 40 canal boats requiring the employment of 120 men.

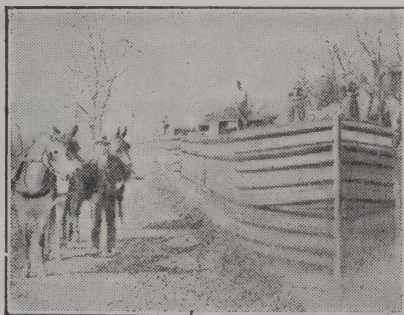


The Aqueduct Across Penn's Creek
North and South Views

The daily routine life of a canal boatman was to rise at three o'clock in the morning, and with a lantern proceed to the stable to feed, curry, and harness his team. Then the mules were hitched at tandem to the towing line from seventy-five to ninety yards in length with the other end fastened to the front end of the boat. When the boat was prepared for the trip, the helmsman cast off moorings, took his place at the bow of the boat, and gave the command that all was in readiness. At the crack of the whip, the team started and moved forward on its journey. Breakfast was prepared either by the captain, or the bowsman, or perchance by a woman on board. Usually the one who prepared the meal ate first and then substituted for the steersman while he ate. After this the driver was called for breakfast, and somebody substituted for him while he ate. Usually a short ladder was suspended from the gunwale. The driver would grasp this ladder and climb on board. When the boat was heavily loaded, the boat couldn't be brought that close to the bank. Then the man on the boat would use a pole with its end placed on the bottom of the canal and make a swinging leap for the tow path. The driver frequently used a plank about twenty-five feet in length to cover the distance between the boat and the tow path, moving across it even while the boat was moving. This required considerable skill to effect a successful transfer. After the meal, the driver cleared the table, washed the dishes, tidied the cabin, rested for a few minutes, and then took his place with the team again.

Upon approaching a lock, a tin horn or conch shell was blown to announce the coming of the boat so that the locktender would be prepared to take care of it without too much delay. The gates of the lock would swing wide open like a book in the middle of the canal. The boat floated into the lock and was "snubbed" to posts. The canal boat was then raised or lowered as the case might be to the next level by the entering or receding waters, and then it continued onward in its course in the canal. A canal trip consumed a great deal of time because of the slow rate of travel and must have been rather tedious to the boatmen. It is reported that a canal boat loaded with 1000 bushels of wheat made a return trip between Milton and Philadelphia in six weeks. Another canal boat completed a return trip between Sunbury and Philadelphia in twenty days. A round trip from Nanticoke to Balti-

more consumed twelve days. When the canal boats reached Havre de Grace on their trip to Baltimore, from forty to fifty of these boats were usually placed in tow on the Chesapeake Bay and in that form proceeded to Baltimore. In case of a storm, these boats were often torn asunder, and some of them were lost. The wages of the boatmen were very low, especially when compared with present day wage rates. The Superintendent of a Division was paid \$3 per day, a foremen received \$1.50 per day, supervisors received \$2.50 per day, lockkeepers received \$10 per month. Of course the costs of living were correspond-



Captain Franklin A. Reif and Family Crew

ingly low. At Havre De Grace, for example, watermelons could be bought at a few cents each, a hundred pounds of fish cost one dollar, eggs sold at ten cents per dozen, oysters were sold at fifty cents a bushel, oats at twenty-five cents per bushel, and flour at \$3.50 per barrel. The freight rates on the canal were also very low. The freight on a ton of coal from Nanticoke to Baltimore was one dollar.

Decline of the Canal

In spite of the heavy traffic, the business of the canal was insufficient to make it self-supporting, not to say anything about profit-making. The result was an annual deficit. The Susquehanna Division of the Pennsylvania Canal extending from the mouth of the Juniata River to the forks of the Susquehanna, in common with practically every other canal, turned out to be a financial failure. Pennsylvania invested in its system of canals over \$24,000,000 and never received in any single year over \$700,000 in tolls, an amount insufficient to pay the interest on the investment, not to mention the expenses of

maintenance. Largely through a lack of practical economy, the debt of the State in 1834 had mounted to \$23,000,000 and by 1841 to \$42,000,000 when the State defaulted the interest on the bonds and the work of further canal construction ceased. Unfortunately, the State legislature failed to appropriate enough money to push the work to the utmost. Frequently the contractors were compelled to pay their bills with certificates of credit, and these soon became the means of all kinds of speculation schemes.

The original cost of building the canal was too high and the railroads tended to supersede the canal as a quicker and better way of transportation. The inevitable, ultimately, was the abandonment of most of the traffic on the canal by 1895, and complete abandonment by 1901. These public internal improvements of the Commonwealth were never a profitable venture. Originally a very heavy indebtedness was incurred by their construction, the receipts did not exceed the operation expenses, and annually the indebtedness became larger. Railway competition made this inevitable. Public opinion demanded a change so that the state might be relieved from an increasing financial burden. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company bought the main line, including the canals and railroads, from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh in 1857 for \$7,500,000. The canals along the Susquehanna River northward from Duncans Island, including those of the North and West Branches, were at first taken over by the Pennsylvania Canal Company, and then sold in 1858 to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company for \$3,781,250. The Pennsylvania Railroad and other railroads bought more canals, until for the most part, the canals constituted a part of the railroad systems, so that by about 1900, an Act of the Assembly permitted nearly all canals to be abandoned. Government ownership and operation did not prove successful, at least in this particular instance. When canals were in their heyday, there were in all sixteen divisions with a total length of 978 miles. After the railroads began to purchase these canals from the State, they soon became the owner or controller of most of them. Just as soon as the railroads got into possession of the canals, the shipping rates were increased to such an extent that private shippers couldn't afford to pay the high rates, and the canal declined even more rapidly because of it. In 1875 there were only 741 miles of canals in operation, and

in 1920, only the Lehigh, Delaware and the Schuylkill Divisions with a total mileage of 198, remained. When the canal along the Susquehanna was finally abandoned in 1901, the boatmen found themselves without any occupation, but with their characteristic old-time stamina, they soon learned new trades to earn a livelihood for themselves and their families. The Board of Canal Commissioners was abolished by an Act of the Assembly in 1859.

Present Status of the Canal Property

The Pennsylvania Canal along the river front in Snyder County territory has become a matter of history. The story of the rise and fall of the Pennsylvania Canal is the story of canals generally in America. Hardly more than a few marks here and there give evidence that it ever existed. The right-of-way still remains in places with the exception that there is no water in it and in most places it is covered up with a veritable jungle of heavy undergrowth. The old tow-path is grass-grown and furnishes pasturage for grazing cattle. The old locks at Northumberland, Shamokin Dam, Port Trevorton, Chapman, and Mahantango have fallen into ruins. Even the old aqueduct in the Narrows below Selinsgrove is scarcely discernible anymore. To some people, the aqueduct still lingers in their memories as a large wooden trough over Penn's Creek, extending to the lower portion of the Isle of Que. From there, the tow-path extends northward to the site of the old Maine Saw-mill along the river shore to Hummels Wharf and the Blue Hill where it crossed the Susquehanna River to Northumberland. Across the Mahantango Creek, on the right side of the canal, was a wharf located in front of a rather unique, three-story brick building. This building still stands today, remarkably well-preserved, as a melancholy memorial of the once prosperous days of the Susquehanna Division of the Pennsylvania Canal (1827-1901). Only ruins and old landmarks are left of what was once the most important channel of commerce in this part of Pennsylvania.

The Manor Real Estate and Trust Company of Philadelphia purchased in 1910 from the Pennsylvania Canal Company the banks, tow-path, and the canal-bed, extending through the counties of Lancaster, Dauphin, Perry, Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Luzerne. The transfer of the county real estate was made at the courthouse at Middleburg. The price paid for the property was \$20,000. The length of this canal

property was six and one-fourth miles and the width averaged thirty feet. This property depreciated in value with the abandonment of the canal, as was to be expected. The Manor Real Estate and Trust Company is a bank through which the Pennsylvania Railroad carried on some of its business transactions. In other years this same company purchased land for the railroad when it extended its lines through Sunbury. The canal right of way is still owned by the Railroad Company. Portions of the land are leased by people living along the canal route from the Railroad Company for a nominal sum, and used for a garden, truck-patch, and cow pasture. In 1945 the Selinsgrove Borough Council bought from the North Central Railroad Company for \$500 the site of the old canal on the Isle of Que, comprising nearly ten acres, for a municipal park. This portion of land extends from a short distance south of the railroad to the borough line and is used as a public playground.

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CHAPTER 17

Ways and Means of Transportation — Railroads

Nature knows no pause in progress and development,
and attaches her curse on all inaction. Goethe

The middle half of the nineteenth century was an era of canals and railroads. These two internal improvements for a time operated in conjunction with each other, but later the canals were almost completely supplanted by the railroads. The decade following the close of the Civil War was a period of great railroad expansion all over the nation, no doubt brought on by conditions that prevailed during and immediately following that war. Railroads had been of great service to the nation during the war in the way of transporting troops and supplies, and it was felt that they could be equally useful in times of peace. Likewise an element of rivalry in areas in proximity to one another for better means of transportation may be considered a strong contributing factor. The entire nation felt the need of improvement along this line, and as a result great efforts were put forth to satisfy this need.

This led to the building of many railroads. A railroad was constructed from Philadelphia to Columbia, Pa., by way of Lancaster, as early as 1832. This was really the beginning of the Pennsylvania Railroad, although the company was not incorporated until 1846. By 1834 Philadelphia and Pittsburgh had transportation connections by way of Harrisburg and Lewistown, partly by canal and partly by railroad, and by 1854 the railroad connections between these two points were complete. The Susquehanna Railroad, later known as the Northern Central, extended its road northward from the Pennsylvania lines, on the east side of the river, to Sunbury and Williamsport. Between 1869 and 1885, the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad was built through Mifflinburg, Laurenton, and Spring Mills, to Lamont in Center County, where it connected with another railroad to Bellefonte, and then by the Lock Haven and Tyrone Railroad with Tyrone, on the Pennsylvania Lines. The Mifflin and Center County Railroad had originally been planned to connect Lewistown and Milesburg in Center County but never was built beyond the town of Milroy (1864). The Shamokin, Sunbury, and Lewisburg Railroad, leased to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, extended from Shamokin through Sunbury, crossed the Susquehanna River at Sunbury, and continued on the west side of the river along

Blue Hill in Snyder County to West Milton and Williamsport (1883). This general summary of the railroad situation provides a background for the understanding of the situation and the conditions at the time when railroad construction was undertaken in Snyder County.

The Middle Creek Valley Railroad

An act of the legislature passed March 23, 1865, provided for the appointment of a commission to organize the Middle Creek Valley Railroad Company with a capital stock of 10,000 shares at fifty dollars per share and to receive subscriptions. By vote of the stockholders the capital stock was to be increased from time to time as might be necessary to complete the proposed railroad. Ten per cent of the subscription was to be called in October, 1867, so that sub-contracts could be made. The act also provided that the proposed railroad was to extend from a point "on the Mifflin and Center County Railroad, at or near Freedom Forge, or from a point on the Pennsylvania Railroad, at or near Lewistown, through the heart of Mifflin and Snyder Counties eastward along the Beaver Furnace and terminate at some point on the east bank of the Susquehanna River at or between Port Trevorton and Northumberland, and to connect with any railroad at or between these points". The construction of the road was to begin within three years and was to be completed within ten years. To carry out the provisions of this act, the Middle Creek Railroad Company was organized October 2, 1866. It later became the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad Company with Abner Thompson, Esq., as its first president. In the fall of 1866 preliminary surveys were made to determine the exact course of the road.

On August 1, 1867, the commissioners decided that the railroad should begin at Northumberland, connecting at that point with the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad, then cross the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, and extend south to Selinsgrove and west to the Beaver Furnace of the Shade Mountain Iron Company. At this point the railroad was to leave the main valley of the Middle Creek and extend to Beavertown and Adamsburg, follow a tributary of Middle Creek to the summit which divides Middle Creek and Jacks Creek, then pass into the valley of Jacks Creek to within two miles of Lewistown. Here it was undecided whether to cross Kishacoquillas Creek and connect with the Mifflin and Center

County Railroad or to cross the Juniata River and make a direct connection with the Pennsylvania Railroad at Lewistown. It was thought that the latter course would be more expensive to take because of the grades in going from the valley of the Susquehanna to that of the Middle Creek, the high ground near Beavertown, the transfer from the valley of the Middlecreek to the Jacks Creek Valley, and finally the crossing into the Juniata Valley. After the trackage had been completed to Selinsgrove, the plan was to turn northward through Monroe Township and cross the river to Northumberland. This scheme was abandoned and workers started to build a bridge across the river at Selinsgrove to connect with the NORTH CENTRAL RAILROAD opposite Selinsgrove between Harrisburg and Sunbury. This connecting point was given the name of the North Central Junction, but later it became known as the Selinsgrove Junction.

On April 13, 1868, the Middle Creek Railroad Company was authorized to borrow money not exceeding \$1,000,000, to complete the work of construction of the railroad. On February 17, 1870, the company was authorized to borrow \$200,000 more to complete the work. The estimated cost of building the road and making it ready for operation was \$1,380,000. By an act of the Assembly, February 17, 1870, the name was changed to the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad. This act also authorized the commissioners not only to connect the road at a point north of Selinsgrove but also at Port Trevorton, providing the company should see proper to do so. The prospects of a railroad through the Middle Creek valley had received much consideration for some years prior to its construction. Many people of the valley were keenly interested because of a felt need for an outlet for their farm products. It was also believed that the railroad would prove a great boon to the territory comprising Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Schuylkill, Luzerne, Carbon, Wyoming, Wayne, and Susquehanna Counties. The road was in many respects the most direct route for the shipment of anthracite coal to the west. It would open the Great West to trade, stimulate the coal-mining industry in the anthracite region, open extensive deposits of iron ore, and insure good dividends upon its capital stock.

When the petitions began to be circulated for the purpose of raising necessary funds, the people responded

quite generously. As an illustration of the public-spirited nature of the Pennsylvania Germans of the valley, the work of Moses Specht (1818-1895) needs to be mentioned. He was an outstanding promoter of the railroad. He collected subscriptions to the amount of \$30,000, secured the right of way for the company of eighteen miles of the road, and got clear titles for the land on which were built the railroad stations at McClure, Beaver Springs, Beavertown, Paxtonville, Middleburg, and Kreamer. He devoted one entire summer to this work without compensation. He held the contract for two miles of grading of a difficult portion of the road at the price of \$11,000.

The work of grading began in the summer of 1867, and the road bed was ready for the laying of the track by the spring of 1871. The work was so arranged that gangs of 200 to 300 workmen engaged in grading and masonry work at different points on the line approached each other from the opposite terminals of the road. That there were prolonged and exasperating delays in the construction of the road is evidenced by the fact that four long years were consumed until the road was finally opened to the public.

By September, 1871, the west end of the road from Lewistown to Beaver springs (Adamsburg) was ready for use. On the final day, the first train consisting of a locomotive, a passenger coach, and six trucks, entered Beaver Spring. By October, 1871, the track was completed between Beaver Springs and Selinsgrove. At noon, November 1, 1871, the first through passenger train, consisting of a locomotive and a passenger coach of railroad officials and other notables reached Selinsgrove. This train was followed by another one with three coaches. The locomotives were beautifully decorated and the coaches were filled with passengers. The Lewistown and Middleburg Bands accompanied the trains to furnish music for the gala event. Captain Feehrer's Silver Cornet Band of Selinsgrove was on hand at the station to greet the bands. After a banquet at a local hotel and other festivities, at four o'clock the train started on its return to Lewistown.

The opening of the railroad proved to be an occasion of great rejoicing all along the way. Large crowds of people gathered at the different railroad stations to welcome the train. The people felt that at last modern means of transportation had been brought to their very doors. No longer was it necessary to utilize horse-drawn wagons over many miles of rough country roads to convey their

grain and other farm products to Selinsgrove and even to more distant markets. The opening of the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad in 1871 sounded the death knell to the stagecoach, operating between Lewistown and Northumberland by the way of Bannerville.

A few words ought to be spoken with respect to the railroad bridge across the Susquehanna River from Selinsgrove to the Junction. At a meeting of the directors in Lewistown June, 1867, a survey of the river was ordered with the view of building a bridge across the Susquehanna River to connect with the North Central Railroad at Selinsgrove instead of Sunbury. The bridge was begun in 1870 and completed in 1871. The bridge consisted of twelve spans over the main part of the river and four spans



Sunbury—Lewistown Railroad Bridge

on the east end, separated from the main span by a trestle over the island. This bridge caught fire at the southwest corner of the west end of the bridge one winter evening in 1877. In a very short time, the first span was completely on fire. It was extremely difficult to get to the fire to fight it successfully, since the fire cut off all communication with the shore. The fire was finally gotten under control after it had reached the eighth span. The entire bridge had sixteen spans. The fire was probably the work of an incendiary. The freight service had to be discontinued but the passenger trains continued to run, the passengers being ferried across the river to the junction by means of a flatboat. The bridge was rebuilt and ready for service by 1878.

The building of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad had

a great influence in developing the resources of the valley and in bringing about improvements of the towns. The railroad also brought with it certain shortcomings. Prior to the building of the railroad, Selinsgrove was an extremely busy and important place in the business world since it was the shipping point for the territory west of the Susquehanna River with a radius of probably forty miles. The construction of this railroad through Snyder and Mifflin Counties in 1871 diminished this activity in Selinsgrove because the stations all along the way became shipping points and distributing centers for the grains, lumber, iron ore, and other commodities of the different communities.

The Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad operated at first as an independent company, connecting with the North Central Railroad at Sunbury and with the Pennsylvania Railroad at Lewistown. In a few years the company became involved in its operation in financial difficulties. Early in 1874 the road was closed, the rolling stock was removed, trains ceased to operate, and the railroad was sold at sheriff's sale May 5, 1874, to a committee of the bondholders for \$500,000. For some reason or another, these bondholders were unwilling to operate the railroad and offered it for sale. Bids were received from the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Reading Railroad, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad, but none gave a bid closer than \$100,000 of the amount asked by the bondholders.

Since the Selinsgrove and Lewistown Railroad Company had become insolvent, it was decided at a meeting of the bondholders in Philadelphia January 26, 1876, to sell the railroad at public sale March 9, 1876, to the highest bidder, provided it wouldn't be disposed of at private sale previous to March 1. A cash payment of \$15,000 was required to be made at the time of sale. Since no private sale was effected, it was advertised and put up at auction March 9, and was bid to \$153,000. On March 23, Mr. J. K. Valentine purchased the railroad for \$161,000. After paying all claims, the amount left was \$11,254 for distribution among the bondholders. There was a standing claim of approximately \$8,000 against the Pennsylvania Railroad that was deemed collectible. After considerable reorganization by the new owners, the Pennsylvania Railroad leased the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad for a period of ninety-nine years from July 1, 1876, for contingent interest in net earnings which in 1884 were \$105,-

855, in 1886, \$123,536, and in 1888, \$123,619, and the operation of the road was resumed in 1876*.

The railroad from Lewistown to Milroy was a portion of a railroad originally contemplated to extend to Milesburg in Centre County. This road was to be known as the Mifflin and Centre County Railroad and was incorporated in 1860 with an authorized capital of \$250,000, with the right to equip and to use any five miles of the road whenever completed. The Pennsylvania Railroad aided in the construction of railroads accessory to its own and thus assisted in the building of this road. The construction began in 1864 but the road was never built beyond Milroy, and hence became known as the Milroy Branch. In July, 1896, the Milroy Branch was merged with the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad, the capital stock was increased from \$800,000 to \$1,200,000, and it was leased for seventy-nine years (original lease for ninety-nine years made in 1876) to the Pennsylvania Railroad for one half of the net earnings after the payment of the interest. When the Pennsylvania Railroad assumed the management of the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad, it included the Milroy Branch. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company finally purchased the Lewistown and Sunbury Railroad and made it an integral part of the Pennsylvania System.

The Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad continued its passenger service from 1876 to 1932, and its freight service has been continued up to the present time. During these years as a part of the Pennsylvania Company, the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad as a branch or cut-off road had a high degree of success. A statement by the Middleburg Post February 16, 1882, sets it about right when it declared that "the railroad connecting the anthracite coal fields bordering on the Susquehanna with the Juniata Valley has at last attained a position of substantial and enduring success". In fact so heavy was the freight traffic at one time that beginning with May, 1884, a "shifter" was used in the Selinsgrove Yard for the purpose of assisting freight trains on the hill west of the town and between Selinsgrove and the Sunbury Yards. About 1900 the railroad company considered the plan of building a double-track road between Sunbury and Lewistown. The freight traffic over this cut-off was very heavy for years, with trains running as often as every half hour.

*The Consumers and Financial Chronicle, January, 1898.

At one time there were three passenger trains each way daily, even then they were often so crowded that it was difficult to get a seat. Evening passenger trains were on the road from 1907 to 1918, when on account of war conditions and the government control of railroads, these evening trains were removed. The introduction of the automobile and the building of better roads put a stop to this heavy passenger traffic.

On Saturday, January 16, 1932, the last regularly scheduled passenger train ran over the road. This train was made up of engine, number 5386, a mail and express car, and a passenger coach. The train crew consisted of Charles A. Fisher, engineer; Charles Laird, fireman; J. Howard Stock, conductor; and Harry Howell, brakeman. Thirty-five passengers made the westbound trip, and more than double that number made the eastbound trip. The press reports state that this final trip was one of many regrets for both train crew and passengers. The two best-known conductors on the road were Joe O. Downs, Milroy, Pa., and J. Howard Stock, Sunbury, Pa.

The Proposed Selinsgrove and North Branch Railroad

As early as 1838 an effort was made to construct a railroad that would connect the river valleys of the Juniata and Susquehanna. In December of that year a meeting was held in Mifflintown to consider the feasibility of requesting the Pennsylvania State Legislature to enact a law providing for the construction of a railroad from the Juniata River, at or near Mifflintown, to the Susquehanna River, at or near Sunbury. Nothing tangible, however, was accomplished for thirty-three years until May 3, 1871, when an act was passed by the legislature authorizing the incorporation of the Selinsgrove and North Branch Railroad for the purpose of building a single or double track railroad from Selinsgrove to Sunbury and Northumberland and to Port Trevorton, and to connect such a road with any other railroad by a branch or branches not to exceed thirty miles in length, including the right to build and to operate a telegraph line. The fact that the Act of Assembly provided for a railroad "from Selinsgrove to Northumberland and Sunbury or to any point between Sunbury and Northumberland" (the North Branch of the Susquehanna River separates these two towns) warrants the use of the names "Selinsgrove" and "North Branch" for the proposed railroad. This act authorized a number

of citizens of the county to effect an organization of the company with a capital of \$200,000. On August 8, 1871, at a meeting of the stockholders in Selinsgrove, Colonel Anthony C. Simpson was elected president of the organization, Captain William A. Meeker, secretary, and Joseph Burd, a businessman from Northumberland, treasurer.

Engineers were employed to survey a route for the proposed railroad. The route proposed was to extend from Northumberland and Sunbury through Selinsgrove and Port Trevorton to Liverpool through Pfoutz's Valley to the Juniata River to connect with the Pennsylvania Railroad at Millerstown. This course was soon abandoned because of much opposition on the part of the residents of Freeburg, Fremont, Richfield, and Mifflintown. Then a survey was ordered to be made from Selinsgrove through Freeburg, Fremont, Richfield, Evandale, Cocolamus, McAlisterville, and Oakland Mills to Mifflintown, a distance of thirty-five miles. This route was finally approved, and steps were taken for the construction of the railroad. The company was authorized to negotiate a loan of \$1,000,000, to construct and equip the road. The road was to be narrow guage. Subscription books were opened to the public at the Keystone Hotel (now the Governor Snyder at Selinsgrove), Moyer's Hotel in Freeburg, and other places, and public meetings were held at various places along the route of the proposed road.

At a public meeting held at Mifflintown, December 3, 1873, Captain William A. Meeker, then the President of the Railroad Company, made an address in which he outlined the advantages of the railroad and gave considerable assurance that the Reading Railroad would lay the track and equip the road after the roadbed had been constructed. It was then believed that the Selinsgrove and North Branch Railroad would simply be an extension of the Reading Company's tracks which then crossed the Susquehanna River between Herndon and Port Trevorton, and then would be extended northward along the west bank of the river to Bake Oven Hill, south of Selinsgrove, and then turn westward to Freeburg, and from thence in a southwesterly direction to Mifflintown.

Probably this entire proposal was not much more than a bit of wishful thinking on the part of the promoters of the road. President Gowen in 1871 was concentrating all of his efforts in building up his anthracite coal business and had little or no interest in expanding at the time

the Reading Lines much beyond that particular area. His policy of expansion did not begin to function until some years later. Had the supposed proposal of connecting the Reading Railroad with the proposed Selinsgrove and North Branch Railroad actually been carried out, there would have resulted a railroad route from Mifflintown to Philadelphia over the Reading, and to New York over the Jersey Central. It is, however, more than likely that the traffic over this proposed road would hardly ever have been very heavy even with the opening of the hematite iron ores in the hills of Juniata and Snyder Counties.

In response to this promising appeal, the citizens of the area of the proposed railroad subscribed \$30,000 towards the new road. Another thing that encouraged the people was the report that a large quantity of iron ore was imbedded in the ridges from Mifflinburg to the vicinity of Freeburg. This would definitely increase the business of the railroad. Later this popular impression was confirmed by the investigations of a party of geologists.

Early in 1874 bids were asked for the grading of the road. On March 12, 1874, the contract for \$135,000 for grading the entire road and building the masonry was awarded to Colonel Jackson W. Gaugler of Selinsgrove, who immediately sublet the work in sections. Four days later engineers and workingmen were busily engaged at the work. Dump carts and mules became everyday sights and the line of survey was alive with men so that by May, already six miles of the route were reported as completed. This unexpected progress proved a strong incentive for people to become stockholders. The possibility of becoming stockholders was made more attractive by the unique feature that common labor could be employed in acquiring stock where the ready cash was not always available. This feature would enable people to participate in this cherished enterprise who otherwise would have been excluded. Various parties took advantage of this feature. It is a well-known fact that the fathers of many people living in the communities along the course of the road worked on the roadbed for shares of the stock. In fact the work was carried on so rapidly that by the fall of 1874 much of the work of grading was completed at a total cost of \$168,000.

Just when everything seemed to be going at its best, and the people were assured that the road would be successfully completed and put into operation, a most unfortun-

ate situation developed. President F. B. Gowen* of the Reading Railroad in a letter to President Meeker of the Selinsgrove and North Branch Railroad, announced that his company had withdrawn all financial support of the road and even refused to permit stock to be sold or money to be invested in the new road. This proved to be very bad news, but the work nevertheless went on and the corporate bonds following the call for the first installment on pledges by the stockholders and others were ordered printed in Philadelphia. Soon other unfavorable reports spread and financial troubles began to develop, but brave efforts made possible the continuation of the grading and the construction work. New York capitalists became interested and new life was injected into the enterprise but still the financial situation was not very encouraging.

At a meeting at McAlisterville in May, 1877, a committee was appointed to report on the financial condition of the company. In August, E. C. McCrum of Selinsgrove was appointed receiver for the company. The receiver undoubtedly did the best he could with an apparently hopeless situation. Annual meetings followed annual meetings. McCrum was finally chosen the president of the company; Miles Wetzel, the secretary; and W. F. Eckbert, the treasurer, but still no appreciable progress was apparent. The money was exhausted and there was no movement on the part of the company to push the work to its final completion. The people quite generally had become disheartened and distrustful, and the project had to be abandoned. No tracks were ever laid. Comparatively few people had invested cash but many lost hundreds of hours of labor given in exchange for stock of the company. On December 5, 1884, the property was sold at sheriff's sale to Colonel Jackson W. Gaugler, the general contractor of Selinsgrove, for \$1030.

A last final effort was made to save the road. A new company was organized by the name of the Susquehanna and Southwestern Railroad with R. L. Ogden of New York City as the president. His sudden death led to the organization of another company known as the Middle Pennsylvania Railroad but nothing was accomplished to save the enterprise from complete failure. The question has often been asked why the building of this road didn't prove a successful enterprise. The correct answer may always remain a matter of conjecture. The

*Schlegel's—The Ruler of the Reading: (doctoral dissertation).

course of this projected road was roughly parallel to the road already in operation in the Middle Creek Valley, and in rather close proximity to it. It may, therefore, be assumed that its construction and operation provided more railroad facilities than even the demands of a growing region required. The Middle Creek Valley Railroad in 1871 was apparently operating quite successfully and proved to be an incentive for a competing group in a nearby valley to construct another railroad when really it may not have been needed.

Ways and means of which we know not may have been employed to eliminate the possibilities of a competing road. It has even been suggested that the road was promoted by outside speculators who used the funds provided by local investors instead of their own money in the construction of the road. By so doing they protected themselves against any losses since they had no money invested, and at the same time had some assurance of profits for themselves irrespective of whether the road was ever completed or not.

This undoubtedly dampened the spirits of the people with respect to the Selinsgrove and North Branch Railroad, but by May, 1874, it was in financial difficulties and was sold at public sale to a committee of the bondholders. Probably the serious economic disturbances of the seventies were primarily responsible for its failure. Undoubtedly the withdrawal of the promise of financial support by the Reading Company at a crucial time had its effect. It certainly dampened the ardor of the officials of the company, and in turn had no little effect upon the stockholders. Such a situation is always fertile soil for rumors of internal corruption and dishonesty. What records still remain show no evidence that any credence can be attached to these rumors. Thus an apparently worthy and cherished project came to an unsuccessful and untimely end.

The exact course of the proposed road needs to be pointed out. A person should stand on the Pine Street crossing of the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad in Selinsgrove and sight a tangent line to the west side of Bake Oven Hill. This line passes just east of the Groce Silk Mill and of the State Highway Building. A bridge was to span the Middle Creek. When one drives today from the Susquehanna Trail toward the Middle Creek Electric Dam, in turning to the left to follow the original trail to

Verdilla, the grading is still noticeable. A ledge along the abrupt rocks just above the water line of the dam is the line of grading. Farther west the road crossed the Flintstone Valley at the Charles G. Hendrick's farm. Here grading and masonry may still be plainly seen. At this juncture the road course then turned westward along the banks of a small stream toward Freeburg.

A portion of the grading forms the southern boundary line of the borough of Freeburg, following the course of the Wissahickon Creek, and exhibits some excellent stone masonry work. From Freeburg the proposed road continued westward along the north side of the stream, crossing the public road just east of the iron bridge one-half mile west of Freeburg, and keeping on the north side of the stream until it crossed at right angles the Middleburg-Fremont public road about 1,000 feet north of the intersection of routes numbered 104 and 35. Then the course extended through Heister Valley mostly along the side of the ridge. Along the ridge, south of the Heister Valley schoolhouse, and on the farms of Henry R. Ferster and Edgar Shirk, a short distance northwest of Richfield, can be found excellent remains of the roadbed such as culverts, embankments, fill-ins, cuts, and excavations. From this place on, the roadbed follows quite definitely the natural course of least resistance on the south side of Evendale through McAlisterville, Oakland Mills and into Mifflintown by way of the ravine at the southern edge of the town.

Among the engineering features which evidently still challenge the admiration of the onlooker are the excellent culverts installed along the course whenever streams were encountered that required bridging. Exactly north of Cocolamus, about 500 feet north of the highway, are found very good visible remains including a culvert. The stones of some of these culverts have been removed for various purposes, but some of the remaining ones continue intact almost as compactly as when originally installed. Their construction must have required a prodigious amount of labor and a high degree of skill in masonry with prepared stone and much technical knowledge in engineering calculations. The culverts and abutments will continue throughout the passing generations as mute testimony of good workmanship.

At certain places the road was elevated with sloping sides for some distance while at other portions excavations

were evidently necessary to provide the evenness for the laying of the ties. Fifty years ago the course of the roadbed with its gradings and other aspects was decidedly more distinct than is the case at the present day. The plowing of the fields and the action of the weather throughout the years have combined to destroy the more conspicuous features of the roadbed.

The Trevorton, Mahanoy, and Susquehanna Railroad*

When coal was first discovered in the Mahanoy and Zerbe Valleys of Northumberland County, steps were undertaken to provide an outlet for this important product. By an act of the legislature of 1827 provision was made for the construction of some means of transportation for the coal by water or railroad from the coal mines to the Susquehanna River. However, the time limit set for the construction of such a project expired before it could be realized. In the meantime, the Pennsylvania Canal had been built along the Susquehanna River as a suitable waterway for the shipment of coal, but no means of transportation for the coal from the mines to the canal had as yet been provided. In consequence in 1850 another law was enacted incorporating the Trevorton, Mahanoy, and Susquehanna Railroad with a capital stock of \$40,000 to be raised by subscription. The act gave the company the necessary power to construct a railroad from the mouth of Zerbe Run in Northumberland County to the Susquehanna River at the mouth of Mahanoy Creek. George L. Morris was the president of the company and F. L. Johnson the secretary and treasurer. John B. Trevor of New York City was one of the leading spirits in the managing and financing of this project. After some delays, the railroad from the Trevorton mines to the river was completed and the bridge was built across the river, thus connecting the coal fields with the canal.

The railroad was fifteen miles in length with a grade at some places approaching ninety feet to the mile. Numerous deep cuts and fills had to be made. There were eight bridges along the route, the main bridge being across the river. The river bridge was made up of two sections separated by White Island. The sections were connected by a trestle 1,400 feet long extending over the entire width of the island. This trestle work was later filled in with

*Paper by Mrs. Olive Aucker Glaze, Northumberland County Historical Society Proceedings, Vol. 15

earth, culm, and coal dust from the mines. The bridge had twenty-three spans, eight on the east channel and fifteen on the west. With the single exception of the span over the island, the spans were 150 feet in length. The arches rested on cast-iron bases set against the masonry. The total length of the bridge was 3,460 feet, its width was about forty feet, and the height twenty feet above low water mark. The bridge was a wood structure of the truss and arch style and consisted of two highways. The southern one was for the railroad and the northern one for vehicles, hogs, cattle, and foot passengers. Since there was no partition between the two lanes of traffic, the close proximity of the railroad cars and the horse-drawn vehicular traffic was the cause of numerous run-aways of teams and cattle. The bridge was never roofed, weatherboarded, or painted although on several occasions it was whitewashed. This left the bridge wholly unprotected from the elements and made possible early deterioration and decay, as will be seen presently. The wood used in the construction of the bridge was mostly white pine and oak from Penn's Valley and the upper timber lands of the river section. Much of the timber was sawed on the Maine Saw Mill above Selinsgrove, formed on the Isle of Que, and floated by canal, creek, and river to the bridge site. Some of the timber was also cut on near-by tracts and sawed into lumber on the W. H. Herrold's saw-mill. The stone in the masonry was chiefly sandstone from Nanticoke, Shickshinny, Liverpool, and the Mahanoy Mountain. In many cases the rough, unhewn stones were brought to the "Old Ferry Landing" below the bridge and there hewn into the required size and shape. The piers were built of rubble and stone taken from the river bottom and cemented together. Heavy vertical anchors were built in the masonry to secure the bridge against flood and storm. The west end abutment and the three piers in succession were built by Selinsgrove contractors. The iron for the railroad and the bridge was manufactured at Columbia, Harrisburg, and Danville. The rails were of the charcoal-iron variety and were made at Safe Harbor, Pennsylvania. John Aaron Moyer of Independence had the contract for transporting the iron. The transportation by land was done by means of ox teams. The bridge builders and workingmen came from all walks of life and seemingly from almost every locality. Some roomed and boarded in their homes while many others came from great

distances and lived in tents, houseboats, and shanties.

The bridge and railroad at Port Trevorton proved to be of great commercial importance and convenience to the people. This transportation line not only opened up the Trevorton coal fields to vast markets for the coal but also provided a highway for the traveling community at all seasons of the year. In times of flood, snow and ice, and extreme cold there was a roadway open to the markets. The bridge and railroad enabled the inhabitants of Perry, Juniata, and Snyder Counties to have ready access to the coal fields, sell their produce at advanced prices, and obtain their coal at lower prices than formerly. A tremendous amount of traffic was conducted over the bridge and railroad. A toll book, now in the possession of Claude Charles of Port Trevorton, covering the period from July 26, 1856, to January 11, 1862, shows tolls amounting to \$6,409.89, and the type of traffic, totalling,—

9083	foot passenger
6947	one-horse wagons
4178	two-horse wagons
476	four-horse wagons
1727	horse and rider
63607	head of cattle

At two different times the bridge was seriously threatened with destruction by fire from the sparks of the wood-burning railroad engines. The bridge evidently had been built well from its beginning since it was able to withstand every flood. In course of the years, it showed premature decay because of its exposed condition, was regarded as unsafe for traffic, and was taken down in 1870. When the State sold the canal to the Pennsylvania Canal Company the bridge tolls were raised to a prohibitive figure. Then the building of the railroad from Trevorton to Shamokin made it possible to ship the coal from the Trevorton region completely by railroad. All these factors combined contributed greatly to the shortness of existence of the bridge and railroad.

In 1856, by an act of the legislature, the Trevorton, Mahanoy, and Susquehanna Railroad Company became the Trevorton Coal and Railroad Company. For several years the company prospered but then became financially embarrassed, considerable litigation ensued, and the property was disposed of several times at sheriff's sale. A new corporation was finally organized called the Zerbe Valley Railroad. In 1870 the Zerbe Valley Railroad, the

Mahanoy and Broad Mountain Railroad, the Mahanoy Valley Railroad Company, the Enterprise Railroad Company, and the Shamokin and Trevorton Railroad Company were consolidated into the Mahanoy and Shamokin Railroad Company. In the following year this company merged with the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. Today the piers of the old river bridge are still standing in the river like ghosts, giving mute evidence of the prosperity and business activities of former days.

The Sunbury-Selinsgrove Electric Railway

In the closing years of the nineteenth century, a grandiose scheme of inter-urban railways was planned to



The Selinsgrove Station of the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Electric Railway

link together the towns of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys into one large metropolitan district. The Sunbury-Selinsgrove Railway was only one portion of a vast system of railways contemplated for this area. It was further intended to connect definitely this area with the outside world by means of an electric railroad to run between New York and Chicago through the towns of Penns Creek and New Berlin, involving an outlay of something like \$151,000,000. This extensive proposal was soon abandoned because of its disapproval by the Interstate Commerce Commission despite the fact that engineers had already made extensive surveys for the proposed route.

It is still within the memory of many people to recall the admiration and the enthusiasm of the general public in behalf of such a long anticipated hope of closer accessibility for all the people of the river valley. The Sunbury and Susquehanna Railway Company was a corporation that owned and operated a system of railways in this section of the state and was chartered in 1885. Its actual operation covered the territory between Sunbury and Northumberland, and between Sunbury and Selinsgrove. What was known as the Sunbury and Northumberland Railway Company became in 1918 the Northumberland County Railway Company, which operated a system of street railways between Sunbury and Northumberland. The company that operated the railway between Sunbury and Selinsgrove was known as the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Railway Company.

The Construction of the Railway

As early as February 14, 1893, the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Railway Company was incorporated. In June, 1893, the Selinsgrove borough council passed an ordinance granting the privilege to the company to extend its tracks through certain streets of the borough. In October, 1893, trolley poles were put on Snyder Street between Market and High to hold the franchise of the railway company, but nothing further appears to have been done at the time. In January, 1907, a charter was granted by the state to the Selinsgrove-Freeburg Railway Company. This railway was to begin on Walnut Street in Selinsgrove, extend through a subway of the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad, then over to Market Street, then south on Market Street to the road leading to Kantz, and across the Middle Creek to Freeburg. The plan was later enlarged so that the proposed trolley line would pass through Freeburg, Mt. Pleasant Mills, and Richfield, to Mifflintown, to connect with the Pennsylvania Railroad at that point. The charter within a few years was surrendered, and this part of the contemplated railway was never constructed.

After considerable delay over a period of some years, the work of building the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Line was undertaken. Much of the delay at first in the construction of the road was caused by disagreements between the company and some of the property owners with respect to land damages and land values. These lands were finally conveyed to the company, for the most part, by

deed, but in some of the cases title was acquired by condemnation proceedings. Finally the construction of the railway was actively carried on. The building of the bridge across Penn's Creek and the grading of the road continued so rapidly that the community began to have considerable assurance that by the close of the year 1907 the people would be privileged to enjoy their first ride on the first trolley ever built on Snyder County territory. In the meantime the Bainbridge Street River Bridge between Shamokin Dam and Sunbury was completed. The trolley line was now ready to be put into operation, and the first trolley car crossed the bridge December 4, 1907. This river bridge proved to be a toll bridge of steel construction, and had traffic lanes for the trolley, vehicular traffic, and for pedestrians.

In 1907 the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Railway Company issued 600 coupon bonds of denominations of \$500 each, aggregating the sum of \$300,000 bearing interest at five per cent, payable semi-annually, through the Sunbury Trust and Safe Deposit Company as the holder of the mortgage as security against the property of the company. This property consisted of rails, car barns, workshops, stations, rolling stock, real estate property, and the franchises of the company. In 1912 the amount of bonds was increased to \$1,200,000. The rolling stock consisted of five closed passenger cars, four summer cars, one line car with electric equipment, one box car, four flat cars, three rail trucks, and one hand car. A power plant forty by eighty-four feet was erected in connection with the substation at Rolling Green Park in 1910. This plant consisted of two stationary engines, three 100 horse-power boilers, two feed pumps, one closed feed water heater, two engines, and a pair of generators. This power plant was erected so that the company would not be wholly dependent on the Middle Creek Electric Company for its power.

The Course of the Railway between Selinsgrove and Sunbury

The trolley line extended from Walnut Street in Selinsgrove to Orange Street and across Penn's Creek to the Rolling Green Park at Hummels Wharf, then to and through the town of Shamokin Dam to the Bainbridge Street Bridge across the Susquehanna River to Sunbury, northerly along Front Street, under the railroad of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company to Market

Street, and on Market Street eastward through Cameron Park to Second Street. The trolley line had branches to Rolling Green Park and to a stone quarry of five acres of land in Monroe Township, owned by the company. The entire railroad covered a distance of seven miles with double and single tracks, poles, wires, over-head systems, bridges, sidings, turn-out ways, authorized extensions, lands, right of way, work-shops, car houses, carbarns, machinery, offices, stations, buildings, improvements, tenements, rolling stock, and all other property. Rolling Green Park, consisting of forty-six acres, situated in Monroe Township, Snyder County, was owned and operated by the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Railway Company.

The distance from Selinsgrove to Sunbury was divided into two zones, the fare being seven cents for each zone, and fourteen cents for a complete one-way trip or a round trip of four tickets for twenty-five cents. In July, 1932, in the hope that the income of the company might be increased to meet the mounting operating expenses, the fares were reduced to the rate of sixteen tickets for ninety cents instead of the usual rate of sixteen tickets for one dollar. The cars operated from six A. M. until midnight. At the request of a number of citizens, a car was operated every hour from midnight until six o'clock the next morning for the accommodation of the general public, thus affording the general public a twenty-four hour service. This extended service was later abandoned because it proved a definite loss to the company. Over a period of sixty days the cost of operation proved more than double the income.

The Railway Companies become Involved in Financial Difficulties

This first and only trolley line ever built in Snyder County had a checkered history as shall be seen presently. Its financial difficulties primarily emerged from the condition that its financial indebtedness was far in excess of its income. The project might have worked out very successfully in an area more thickly populated and where the passenger traffic would have been heavier. The automobile was not yet a competitor when the trolley company met its first financial reverses, and still the receipts were far below what they should have been to make the line a successful enterprise. It becomes perfectly obvious that any project is doomed to financial failure when the income

falls below the expenditures. This can be regarded as the main reason for the financial failure of the railway. Let us now recount the more outstanding steps that ultimately led to the abandonment of the line.

The Sunbury and Susquehanna Electric Railway Company, operating between Northumberland and Selinsgrove, a distance of about eight miles, went into the hands of the receivers, December 15, 1913, just about six years after the construction of the railway, upon the petition from the Pennsylvania Steel Company, Steelton, Pa. It was then claimed that the company had been operating at a considerable loss. The Sunbury and Susquehanna Railway Company, the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Railway Company, and the Sunbury Lewisburg and Milton Lines had been consolidated in 1907. The bonded indebtedness of these companies amounted to an interest charge of \$57,500 annually. At this critical juncture, five per cent of the bondholders petitioned the Northumberland County Court for an order of sale. Two mortgages were held against the property to protect the bondholders. The original receivership included the three-mile line between Sunbury and Northumberland which was sold separately to satisfy a \$250,000 mortgage and which was operated as the Northumberland County Railway.

The three companies, after having been in the hands of the receivers for eight years (1913-1921), were sold, together with their corporate rights, franchise, and equipment to J. F. Whittaker of Harrisburg at a receivers' sale in Sunbury, April 25, 1921, by a decree of the court signed by Judge A. W. Cummings. Mr. Whittaker represented the bondholders' protective committee. This meant a great loss since the bondholders had about \$300,000 invested in the property. The Sunbury and Selinsgrove Line, including the Rolling Green Park, was sold to M. B. Walters for \$25,000; the Sunbury, Lewisburg and Milton Line was sold for \$10,000 but \$50,000 was needed to get the property clear of encumbrance; and the corporate rights and franchise of the Sunbury and Susquehanna Line were sold for \$1,000 and the cars and rails for \$3,000. In July, 1921, a re-organization of the Sunbury-Selinsgrove Line was effected and it was incorporated as the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Electric Railway Company for the purpose of maintaining and operating a street railway as a public service company. It was then proposed to re-finance the company, issue \$170,000 worth of bonds to

be used to repay the investors forty per cent of their money, and to give the balance of sixty per cent in stock. In September, 1921, foreclosure proceedings were instituted in the Courts of Northumberland County by the Scranton Trust Company against the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Electric Railway, the Sunbury and Susquehanna Railway Company, against Grant and Byrod as the receivers, and the Sunbury Trust and Safe Deposit Company, and the property was disposed again at public sale.

When the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Electric Railway Company went once more into receivership in September, 1929, the court appointed appraisers who appraised the property \$334,688, of which amount \$35,000 in bonds was turned over to the bank at the time in part payment for an obligation, leaving a balance of approximately \$300,000 on an actual appraisal. The property of the company was sold again March 24, 1934, by the First National Bank of Sunbury (the successor of the Sunbury Trust and Safe Deposit Company) for \$20,000; \$15,000 for the park and \$5,000 for the trolley line despite the fact that the company had an indebtedness of \$35,000. The company was then re-organized as the result of the foreclosure and sale, and it became the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Transit Company. This company in reality was simply a re-organized Sunbury and Selinsgrove Electric Railway Company with George W. Rockwell, President, and Arthur R. Malick, Secretary. In 1934 Arthur R. Malick was the manager of Rolling Green Park for the new owners. During this same year, the trolley line was dismantled. In 1935 Roman M. Spangler managed the park. In October, 1936, he leased it, then bought it, and has owned and operated it since that time.

Electric Railway Right of Way Leads to Controversy

When the state began the construction of the three-lane highway between Selinsgrove and Sunbury in 1941, it was found necessary to take over portions of the land that were formerly the right of way of the Sunbury-Selinsgrove electric railway. The question then arose to whom the state should pay the compensation for this land—the original owners of the land, the railway company, or its successors. The declaratory judgment of the county court October, 1947, stated that all such compensation rightfully belongs to the owners of the land at the time the land was condemned for railway purposes, and not to the Sunbury-

Selinsgrove Railway Company or its successors. The court extended the privilege to the defendants to take exceptions to the ruling and to have the right of appeal.

Bus Lines Replace the Electric Railway

Application was made May 18, 1934, to the Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth by the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Transit Company for a Certificate of Public Conveyance. A communication from President Rockwell stated that the operation of the street railway would cease at the close of the year 1934, and as soon thereafter as possible, all property of the Company would be sold and the Northumberland County Court would be petitioned for the dissolution of the company. Meanwhile provision was made to operate bus service for the transportation of passengers between Sunbury and Selinsgrove.

The Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad and the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Electric Railway were the only means of public transportation between the two towns between the years 1907 and 1934. Even though the railway company became insolvent and passenger service on the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad was discontinued, the company was not given permission by the Public Service Commission to disband all operations before some other form of public conveyance had been provided. At this critical juncture the present bus line came into the picture, and began to operate January 1, 1935. Its primary purpose was to supply a service denied the community through the abandonment of the Sunbury and Selinsgrove Electric railway. The bus line first started as a partnership organization composed of Lester C. Buffington, J. P. Kessler, and C. W. Wilhour. It was incorporated as a company March 1, 1935, as the BKW Coach Line. The company's headquarters, together with the bus station and its garage, are located at Hummels Wharf. When the company started to operate in 1935, it had three buses and three taxis; today the company has twenty-eight buses and seven taxis in operation. Among the important accomplishments of the corporation may be mentioned half-hour bus service between Sunbury and Selinsgrove, taxicab service in Sunbury, bus service with Middleburg, bus service with Richfield and Port Trevorton through the acquisition of the Albert E. Whiteley Bus Line, regular bus service to the ordinance works at Allenwood during the war days, and the transportation of school pupils by means of twelve

different school buses in various school districts of Northumberland, Union, Snyder, and Juniata Counties.

The New Berlin-Winfield Narrow Gauge Railroad

The Need for a Railroad

For many years the town of New Berlin and the surrounding country felt the great need of railroad facilities. The town was practically isolated from the large centers of trade and commerce, and was unmentioned on the railroad maps because of this lack of adequate means of transportation and communication with the outside world.



The Station of the New Berlin-Winfield Narrow Gauge Railroad at New Berlin

From its beginning New Berlin has been the center of a rich agricultural country and lumbering region because the surrounding Shamokin Mountains were heavily forested. The Penn's Creek was used as the highway for the transportation of produce, grains, and timber from the area by means of arks and rafts to the market at Selinsgrove, where they were exchanged for dry goods, groceries, and other commodities. Later on these products were hauled by wagon to the railroad at Northumberland. In 1871 the Pennsylvania Railroad extended its line through Lewisburg and Mifflinburg, and in 1883 the

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad extended its line through Winfield. All this gave additional much-needed facilities for shipment of all types of farm products and timber cut from the surrounding woodlands, but to reach any of these points meant a long haul by wagon over poor roads to the railroad stations at Winfield, Mifflinburg, or Lewisburg for shipment. This took much of the producers time and energy since the dry goods, the groceries, manufactured articles, and the farm machinery needed in that community had to be brought back by the same slow means of transportation.

New Berlin was at one time a thriving, busy town, and was the county seat of Union County from 1813 to 1855. With the division of the county in 1855, the seat of justice of Union County was transferred to Lewisburg. This proved a heavy blow to the business interests and the future growth of New Berlin, and in course of time the town began to decline. As the county seat, New Berlin naturally attracted the legal and business interests of the county and most of the trade of the immediate surrounding areas. People preferred to carry on their trading and to transact their business at the same place as a simple matter of economy. In addition, New Berlin maintained for many years an institution of higher learning which attracted students from different parts of Pennsylvania and from the adjoining states. The only means these students had to reach New Berlin was by stagecoach.

The Building of the Railroad

All these unsatisfactory conditions emphasized the great need of railroad facilities for New Berlin, and prepared the way for the building of a railroad between that town and Winfield where connections could be made with the main line of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. At the time, it was planned to extend the road to Centreville with its final terminus in Centre County. The citizens felt for a long time that railroad facilities were much needed to open up a rich agricultural valley, to increase the business activities of the community, and to serve as an outlet for an immense amount of produce and freight of all kinds. Nothing tangible, however, was done prior to the year 1904. In that year certain promoters of the railroad together with the co-operation of the progressive citizens and business people of New Berlin, undertook to build and to equip a narrow gauge railroad to be known as

the New Berlin-Winfield Railroad with its eastern terminus at Winfield. Mr. I. C. Burd of the firm Burd & Rogers, Shamokin, Pa., his brother, Samuel F. Burd, a merchant of New Berlin; and Irvin J. Moyer, the son-in-law of the latter; took out a charter granted by the state at Harrisburg in September, 1904, for the building of the road. The company was capitalized at \$25,000. A number of five per cent interest-bearing first mortgage bonds were sold to finance the undertaking. The people of New Berlin and vicinity were requested to raise \$4,000 as their share of the financial obligation. This money was speedily subscribed and the work got under way almost immediately. A number of releases for the "right of way" of the New Berlin-Winfield Railroad Company are recorded in the Union County Courthouse at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Instead of following the course of the public road, the railroad line cut across the country over a comparatively level stretch of farm land that required very little grading for the roadbed. The entire length was approximately nine miles with a "right of way" of sixteen and one-half feet. More than sixty men and a dozen or more teams were employed at one time.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company placed its station at Winfield at the disposal of the new company. The station building in New Berlin was erected on land released by William Benner, executor of the S. E. Benner estate, consisting of two acres and thirty-two perches. The station building contained a ticket office, a waiting room, and an express room. There were also constructed on the site a large grain and freight building, a building to house the engines and railroad coaches, including a repair shop, and a coalyard from which many tons of coal were sold to the residents of New Berlin and surrounding communities. The rolling stock consisted of three engines, three passenger coaches, and a number of freight and coal cars. On Saturday, June 10, 1905, the first locomotive that had ever entered the bounds of New Berlin steamed into the town over the new railroad. On Wednesday, June 14, 1905, the passenger train made the first regular trip. The regular schedule required the passenger trains to make four trips daily on weekdays and two trips on Sunday.

The officials of the company were I. C. Burd, President; Samuel F. Burd, Treasurer; Irvin J. Moyer, Gen-

eral Manager of the Road; and William M. Tier of Shamokin, and F. E. Tier and John Bastress, of Mt. Carmel. The engineers of the trains were Walter W. Campbell, (now living on Island Park), Billy Geils, Frank (Bully) Solomon, John Sauers, Charles C. Spangler, Ammon Bowersox, Harold Solomon; the conductors were Irvin Moyer, Lewis Rudy, James H. Walter, and Reno Solomon. Jerry D. Maize was the drayman of the town while the railroad existed. With his faithful bay dobbin hitched to a one-horse wagon, he delivered express, freight, and coal from the station to the stores and homes of the residents of New Berlin.

Celebrating the Completion of the Railroad

On July 4, 1905, a great celebration took place in New Berlin in appropriate recognition of the completion of the new railroad. The festivities of the day opened with a parade which was participated in by the chief burgess, the town council, the railroad officials, the P. O. S. of A., and the citizens of the town and community, besides a large number of girls, dressed in red, white, and blue, and marshalled by William Nieman. The music was furnished by the Selinsgrove and Troxelville bands and the New Berlin Drum Corps. A reception was accorded the railroad officials, after which Professor Martin W. Witmer of Union Seminary, made the address of welcome. Mr. I. C. Burd, President of the Railroad Company, responded. The sports of the day consisted of a baseball game between Selinsgrove and New Berlin; canoe, tub, and sack races; and a greased pig contest. The Shamokin Band accompanied the railroad officials from Shamokin and rendered a fine concert during the afternoon in front of the old courthouse. A delicious dinner was prepared and served by the women of New Berlin and of the surrounding community, the proceeds of which were contributed to the payment of the expenses incurred by the remodelling and the repairing of the old Central Pennsylvania College Building, preparatory to the reopening of Union Seminary in September.

A Period of Prosperity

The year following the completion of the railroad proved very encouraging to the residents of New Berlin and Dry Valley. The people began to feel that a veritable boom had come to their community. These people were

experiencing what former residents had long ago been prophesying but had not been privileged to live long enough to see their prophesy fulfilled. The town was to take a new lease of life. Business interests and activities began to increase. In July, 1905, the New Berlin National Bank was organized with a capital of \$25,000, largely through the efforts of I. C. Burd and W. M. Tier, of Shamokin, officials of the railroad company. The officers of the bank were:

G. Alfred Schoch, Middleburg, President
Frank H. Maurer, New Berlin, Vice-President
Cyrus Eaton, Mifflinburg, Cashier

The directors were G. Alfred Schoch, W. M. Tier, Frank H. Maurer, A. C. Dundore, Allen H. Dinius, Norton D. Yoder, and D. A. Mattern.

During the winter months, there was much lumbering on the near-by mountains, and many loads of mine-props and cross ties were hauled to New Berlin to be shipped on the railroad. In one winter over 50,000 ties were loaded on cars at New Berlin. In the spring and summer months, the railroad was especially appreciated by the farmers along the right of way as the station agent at Winfield would notify the farmers when a shipment of fertilizer was received, and the farmers would then take their wagons down to the railroad track where the shipping consignments would be loaded directly on the wagons. The railroad operators were also very accommodating to the general public as it was not unusual to see a special train carrying a crowd of people to and from a country church festival, a bush meeting, a Sunday School picnic, or other social gatherings.

Decline and Abandonment of the Railroad

But these years of convenience of transportation for the people of the valley were not destined to continue indefinitely. In course of time, man and nature conspired to make it otherwise. On July 17, 1912, a terrific rain-storm swept through Dry Valley causing the Dry Valley Run to overflow its banks. The tracks of the railroad were washed out, including the abutments of the bridge at Winfield, thus closing the line for necessary repairs. This catastrophe with its attendant large expense in repairing the roadbed, together with the fact that automobiles and trucks were coming into general use at the time, caused almost insuperable financial difficulties for

the company. The succeeding four years proved very difficult for the management. Mounting expenditures over against dwindling incomes indicated the foreboding of the worst. During part of this period, as a measure of economy, an auto train, designed by the General Manager, Irvin J. Moyer, consisting of a Mitchell car with flanged wheels to fit the tracks, was used. This extreme measure met with little or no success in overcoming the financial handicaps, and the road finally went into the hands of the receivers. On September 19, 1916, the celebrated "Jerk Water Line", as it became familiarly known, made its last trip and faded into history. At the receivers' sale on September 23, 1916, the assets of the company were sold for \$11,500 to F. E. Tier who represented the holders of the \$25,000 bond issue.

The story of the New Berlin-Winfield Railroad, with its high hopes and untimely end is not by any means an unparalleled case in the history of communication and transportation. In fact this story has been duplicated hundreds of times. Civilization seems to have a very expensive way of making progress possible. What was brought into being at much cost and sacrifice, only too often, is required to give way to other and different ways of doing things. That is the way man and nature appear to work, and there doesn't seem to be any different way.

CHAPTER 18

Ways and Means of Communication, Illumination, and Fire Protection

Progress is the activity of today and the assurance of tomorrow.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The First Telegraph Line in Snyder County

The first telegraph line through Selinsgrove extended from Danville through Monroe Township on the west side of the Susquehanna River to Harrisburg. This line was built in 1853 and was called "The Susquehanna River, North and West Branch Telegraph Company". Upon the construction of the Susquehanna Railroad, later known as the North Central Railway, on the east side of the river in 1858, the telegraph line was abandoned on the west side of the river in 1872, and a new line was brought to Selinsgrove by way of the railroad bridge. The Honorable Jacob G. L. Shindel was the first telegraph operator in Snyder County. This line was later absorbed by the American Company which in turn became the Western Union.

Because of this unique distinction, a brief sketch of the life and services of the Honorable Jacob G. L. Shindel is much in order. He was a native of Sunbury. One of his school teachers was George A. Snyder, a son of Governor Simon Snyder. As a young man, he served as a clerk in stores in Sunbury and Selinsgrove and later established a general store himself in Selinsgrove. Afterwards, he entered the drug, book, and stationery business. He held the position of telegraph operator for nineteen years (1853-1872). He served as postmaster of Selinsgrove, associate judge of the county, treasurer of Missionary Institute and also of the Sunbury and Lewistown Railway Company. His father was the Reverend J. P. Shindel, Sr., pastor of the Lutheran Church of Sunbury and later of Selinsgrove. He was reverently known in the community as Father Shindel.

The Telephone Makes its Appearance in the County

Private Lines

The first telephone in Snyder County was a private line between Franklin J. Schoch's store at Seven South Market Street, Selinsgrove, and his warehouse at the corner of West Pine Street and the railroad. This occurred November, 1879. In 1884, Franklin J. Schoch ex-

tended his telephone line to his flour mill, about two miles north of Selinsgrove, on Penn's Creek. These first telephones proved to be rather crude affairs. A concave-shaped brass metal plate was pounded by a clapper fastened to the wall by means of a chain. The concussion was carried along the wire causing a tinkling sound at the other end. In response to this signal, the person had to shout at the top of his voice in order to make himself heard. Usually all great accomplishments have had very humble beginnings.

The Penn Telephone Company of Selinsgrove

The first public telephone system in the county was established in 1897 by a number of business men known by the corporate name of the Penn Telephone Company of Selinsgrove. These men were Charles M. Clement and Clinton R. Savidge of Sunbury; A. W. Potter, Charles P. Ulrich, George R. Hendricks, B. F. Wagenseller, G. C. Wagenseller, and A. D. Carey of Selinsgrove; D. G. Smith of Freeburg; and W. W. Wittenmeyer of Middleburg. The application for a charter stated that the company had \$10,000 capital stock consisting of 200 shares at fifty dollars each. The charter was granted May 5, 1897, and empowered the company to do business in Snyder, Northumberland, and Mifflin Counties. On September 20, 1897, telephone service was opened between Selinsgrove and Middleburg. By the close of the month, telephone service existed between Selinsgrove and Freeburg. In October an exchange was opened in the rear of the Wagenseller Drug store on Market Street (now John Keller's grocery store), with Miss Lettie Kantner (Mrs. Max Wertz) as the first operator. By July, 1900, a line was completed between Selinsgrove and Port Trevorton.

The Juniata and Susquehanna Telephone Company

On November 26, 1900, the Juniata and Susquehanna Telephone Company was chartered with offices in Lewistown. This company had a franchise to carry on business in Northumberland, Snyder, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Dauphin, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Franklin, and Fulton Counties. There were originally only twenty shares of stock, each share valued at fifty dollars. The Penn Telephone Company continued business for about three years, and then sold out December 26, 1900, to the Juniata and Susquehanna Telephone Company for \$30,000, payable in capital stock in that company. This sale entailed con-

siderable loss for the original Penn stockholders. From this time on, the history of the telephone in the county is a record of high finance, reorganizations, mergers, and financial losses for investors. On November 1, 1901, the Juniata and Susquehanna Telephone Company was sold by the stockholders to the Cumberland Valley Telephone Company for \$35,000, payable in capital stock in that company.

The Cumberland Valley and the United Telephone Company

The only men who were in the original Penn Telephone Company, and who were connected with the Cumberland Valley Company were A. W. Potter of Selinsgrove and Charles M. Clement of Sunbury. The original Selinsgrove interests had very largely been forced out of the picture. The big stockholders of the Cumberland Valley Company, with headquarters at Harrisburg, were from places like Harrisburg, Philadelphia, West Chester, Lebanon, Chester, Hanover, and McSherrystown. The capital stock of the company was 10,000 shares at \$100 each. Its charter was filed November 7, 1901. This company was a merger of the Dauphin County Telephone Company, the Cumberland Valley Telegraph and Telephone Company, the Southern Penn Telephone Company, the Adams County Telephone Company, and the Hanover Telephone Company. A few months after the organization of the company in 1901, the company leased all of its lines to the United Telephone and Telegraph Company of Delaware for a period of 999 years. The easy incorporation laws of Delaware were making that state the headquarters of absentee corporations. This united Telephone and Telegraph Company of Delaware had been chartered in 1901. It soon received permission to do business in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. Its capital stock amounted to \$2,000,000 for 20,000 shares of stock. In this company were Charles M. Clement, Sunbury; G. R. VanAllen and M. H. Taggart, Northumberland, as stockholders. Charles M. Clement was the only stockholder of the original Penn Telephone Company. The United Telephone and Telegraph Company of Delaware operated all the leased lines of the Cumberland Valley Telephone Company including the lines in Snyder County. In 1911 the United Company defaulted and went into the hands of the receiver. This made necessary the appointment of a receiver for the Cum-

berland Valley Telephone Company. Following a judicial sale, this latter company was reorganized in 1915 as the Cumberland Valley Telephone Company of Pennsylvania by a group of men who were, for the most part, from Harrisburg.

All these transfers of telephone lines and reorganizations of companies resulted in the decline of the telephone lines in Snyder County and in poor telephone service. This led to the organization of the Middlecreek Valley Telephone Company in 1910. From 1910, therefore, until the final unification of the telephone services, there were two competing systems in the county. This brought about confusion since one's telephone calls were limited ordinarily to persons who subscribed to the same company, or made it desirable for the person to have both United and Middlecreek Valley telephones. In course of time the United declined. Its Middleburg exchange was closed in January, 1918, and finally it was bought out by the Middlecreek Valley Company in 1931.

The union was made possible at that time because the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission decided that competition in service placed an unnecessary burden on subscribers, and so encouraged the merging of competitors in the same territory. In accordance with this policy, the Bell Company and the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania submitted a plan to divide their territory. The Public Service Commission accepted the agreement on May 27, 1930. The Cumberland Valley surrendered its charter right to the Bell Company in Mifflin, Snyder, Union, Dauphin, Schuylkill, and parts of several other counties. The Bell Company turned over its properties to the Cumberland Valley in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry, and York Counties. The division of territory brought about a reorganization of the Cumberland Valley which, on November 1, 1930, took the name of the United Telephone Company. This change in name probably represented a merger of the parent company and its protege, the Cumberland Valley.

It took some time before the division was put into effect because if the Bell Company gave up a certain number of subscribers in an area, it was to receive the same number from the Cumberland Valley in another area. The Bell Company was to get all Cumberland Valley property in Snyder County, but the negotiations were involved in the fact that the Middlecreek Valley Company, rather

than the Bell Company, was dominant in the county. The Cumberland Valley line, west of Middleburg to the county boundary, was given to the Bell Telephone Company, which in turn transferred it to the Middlecreek Valley Company. The line from Selinsgrove down the Susquehanna Trail to the southern boundary of the county was owned by both the Cumberland Valley and the Middlecreek Valley. The latter bought out the Cumberland Valley share directly. These deals were consummated November 1, 1931, and finally, after thirty-four years of mergers, reorganizations, and competition the people of the county received the boon of a united, efficient telephone service. No one will deny that the union was of vast social benefit because a telephone company, like practically all utilities, is a natural monopoly. To have more than one telephone company or more than one gas company operating in a community produces chaos.

The Middlecreek Valley Telephone Company

There was considerable dissatisfaction with the service of the United Telephone Company in Snyder County for some reason or another. A turn for the better came when the Bell Telephone Company in January, 1910, became actively interested in improved telephone service primarily for the purpose of having better connections in the county for its own lines. This encouraged a group of men from Middleburg and vicinity in February, 1910, to apply for a charter for a local company to be known as the Middlecreek Valley Telephone Company. This new company was organized April 10, 1910, at a meeting in the office of G. Alfred Schoch, at Middleburg. The men in attendance were G. Alfred Schoch, President of the First National Bank of Middleburg, who took sixty shares of stock; George W. Wagenseller, Editor and Publisher of the Middleburg Post, fifty-five shares; Frank A. Eyer, connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad in its general offices, fifty-five shares; James E. Magee, merchant at Kreamer, fifty-five shares; Banks W. Yoder, retired, fifty-five shares; John S. Kauffman, farmer, fifty-five shares; Jere C. Bowersox, farmer, fifty-five shares; J. W. Hassinger, farmer, fifty-five shares. The company was granted a charter April 28, 1910.

The first stockholders' meeting for the election of directors and officers was held May 7, 1910. All of the eight incorporators were elected as directors. The officers elect-

ed were: G. Alfred Schoch, President; James E. Magee, Vice-President; George W. Wagenseller, Secretary; Banks W. Yoder, Treasurer; and Frank A. Eyer, General Manager. Mr. Eyer has served in this capacity to date, in addition to serving as the Secretary and Treasurer. The going was hard at first because most of the stockholders were farmers and could not put in as much money as was needed. In 1912 Judge Harold M. McClure of the Buffalo Valley Telephone Company came into the company with ample funds. Things then began to move. Upon the death of G. Alfred Schoch, Judge McClure was elected the President in 1917. When he was appointed a member of the Public Service Commission in 1918, James E. Magee was chosen President and has held the office ever since. James F. McClure, who joined the company in 1919, was chosen Vice-President.

When the company began operation, it had only nine telephones in Middleburg. Its policy was not to wait until people asked for service, but to carry the service to the people. In July, service was begun between Middleburg and Mifflinburg. In August, an exchange was opened in the Keeley Building, 103 North Market Street, Selinsgrove. By the end of the first year, the system had 294 subscribers in Selinsgrove alone. On November 15, day-and-night service was opened. By May, 1912, the switchboard capacity was doubled, and the line was extended to Kratzerville. The spirit of the founders of the company was not to make anybody wealthy, but to serve its constituency to the best of its ability.

The company had a struggle at first because many thousands of dollars had to be invested before any returns were possible. It was not until February 1, 1913, that any dividends could be paid. This first dividend was two per cent, but on December 5, 1913, a five per cent dividend was declared. There has been a continuous five per cent dividend ever since. The company has shown steady growth because the policy has been to give to the people of the county a much-needed utility. From the very beginning, the system had affiliations with the Bell Telephone Company which had run a line from Sunbury to Selinsgrove in 1909. The Bell Company has given engineering and technical advice to the Middlecreek Company in order that efficient through service from any place in the United States to any place in Snyder County may be possible. The Bell and the Middlecreek Companies

have a contract to the effect that the local lines must be kept up to a high level of efficiency so that long distance calls can reach people in the county over the local lines quickly and clearly. The close relationship between the two companies has been mutually advantageous. Both companies use the line between Sunbury and Selinsgrove, but it is owned by the Bell Company.

The steady growth of the company is indicated by the following developments: (1) In 1910 the capital was \$25,000; in 1918 it was increased to \$50,000; and in 1928 to \$75,000. (2) From the small beginnings in 1910, the total worth has grown to over a quarter of a million dollars, and from the original nine subscribers to about 1,400. In 1924 it had 594 subscribers in Selinsgrove alone. (3) In 1931 the United Telephone Company (Cumberland Valley) was bought out as has already been stated. (4) Employees have increased as the company's service increased. During the first years of construction about thirty men were in the gang. Once the lines were built, the normal employed personnel was about eight. Now the employees number twenty-five.

The cost of operation has doubled or tripled, and yet the rates to consumers have not changed very much. Originally, the lowest-priced telephone cost the subscriber fifteen dollars per year, now the price is eighteen dollars per year. The increased cost of operation can be instanced by the difference in the price of poles as of 1910 and 1944. In 1910, a thirty-foot pole, delivered at the hole by the seller, cost \$1.80. Now on the car in South Carolina, it costs \$10; with freight and carrying charges to the hole added, the price is from eighteen to twenty dollars. A forty-foot pole, delivered at the hole in 1910, cost two dollars but today the cost is about thirty-five dollars. Thus prices have grown tremendously but the modern pole lasts much longer. An old type two-dollar chestnut pole cut locally might last ten years. Now a pole from South Carolina of yellow pine, properly creosoted, may last as long as sixty years.

The reader has readily noted that the telephone in Snyder County has had a rather checkered career. After a decade and more of being victimized by high finance, the leaders of the county evidently decided that local efforts after all could produce the best results. Then the county returned in 1910 to the same idea that was behind the Penn Telephone Company of 1897, and from that day,

the telephone in Snyder County proved a going concern. A word of tribute needs to be spoken in behalf of all the men who helped to make telephone service available to the entire county. There is little doubt that great credit should go to Frank A. Eyer who played a vital part in the organization and the promotion of the Middlecreek Valley Telephone Company. As an experienced railroad man, he possessed a vast amount of experience and knowledge about the telephone business and unselfishly used all of it in behalf of the local company. There is no gainsaying that the efficient management of the company is largely due to his wisdom and untiring efforts.

Electricity Comes to Snyder County

The first electric light system in Snyder County was installed by H. D. Schnure, November, 1897, by placing a dynamo in his Isle of Que Roller Mills and in his residence at 100 East Mill Street, Selinsgrove. A water wheel at the Isle of Que Mills was connected with the dynamo. At bedtime the gates of the water turbine were closed, the dynamo would stop, and the lights would go out. In the following year electric lights were installed in the Eisenhuth and Dreher's Shoe Factory, on the corner of Snyder and High Streets. This was followed by installation of lights in Nipple's Planing Mill. All these were private systems. A popular demand for electric lights in the community had been growing for some time. Prior to these private installations, various efforts had been made to effect an electric illumination of the borough. In August, 1900, the town council acted favorably to a popular petition to sell bonds to build a municipal light plant, but nothing came out of the venture. Either the bond issue was successful at the polls and the bids later were found illegal or the bond issue was defeated at the polls. A local company known as the Selinsgrove Electric Light, Heat and Power Company was chartered May 28, 1899, with a capital of \$5,000, but nothing was accomplished after receiving the franchise. The efforts to have an electric lighting system installed by some outside company likewise met with failure.

In the meantime, a group of capitalists were thinking about building an electric light plant that would generate a sufficient amount of electricity to meet the needs of a number of towns in the community. Several sites of the proposed plant were considered, and finally the Mid-

dle Creek was selected at or near John H. Hoover's farm where a small dam for a grist mill already existed. An option on the Hoover mill site on the Middle Creek was secured February 2, 1905. An effort was made to get Philadelphia capitalists interested in the proposition but this ended in failure. Three local companies were organized to raise the needed capital. The original plan was to construct either a dam across the Middle Creek or to build a tunnel through the neighboring mountain with a large turbine wheel and power house near its mouth at the Narrows. The tunnel idea was later abandoned because it was found impractical and unsatisfactory, and the dam was constructed.



View of the Middle Creek before the Construction
of the Electric Dam

It was at this juncture in 1904 that the Middlecreek Electric Company was organized to construct a dam across the Middle Creek a few miles below Selinsgrove and install an electric plant to furnish light, heat, and power to Selinsgrove, Sunbury, Northumberland, and neighboring towns. This new company proved a merger of four local electric companies: the Northumberland Electric Light, Heat, and Power Company, organized in 1903; the Middlecreek Electric Company, organized in 1905; the Selinsgrove Electric Company, organized in 1905; and the Sunbury Electric Company, organized in 1905. The following nine men began to serve as directors and officers: E. M. Leader, President, Shamokin; Urias Bloom, Vice-

President, Sunbury; George W. Wagenseller, Secretary, Middleburg; F. P. Llewellyn, Treasurer, Shamokin; H. H. Harter, Sunbury; H. E. Rossiter, Sunbury; J. H. Lenker, Sunbury; G. R. VanAllen, Northumberland; and A. N. Warner, Selinsgrove. The company was capitalized at \$35,000. In April, 1906, \$45,000 additional capital was subscribed. By September still more money was needed, and the company issued \$50,000 worth of twenty-year, five per cent, interest-bearing first mortgage bonds. Adequate capital now appeared to be on hand to carry to a successful conclusion such a large industrial enterprise.

In order to connect the site of the proposed electric dam with Sunbury and Northumberland, releases had to be secured for the power line to pass through private property in Hummels Wharf and Shamokin Dam. It is said permits were granted on the promise that the two towns would get a trolley line. In some cases, these land releases culminated in land damage suits, and in consequence considerable litigation followed. The York Bridge Company agreed to construct a bridge across the river providing a certain amount of bridge stock would be subscribed. In this way electric light, the river bridge, and the trolley line became one great enterprise. The facts appear to indicate that the secretary of the company was practically the initiator and promoter of the movement that resulted in these industrial improvements in the community.

With all these preliminary arrangements out of the way, the building of the electric dam could be begun. The company decided to build the dam without asking for bids, and the construction work began April 27, 1906. At first the work was delayed because of a lack of workmen. Boarding houses and sleeping quarters were built for the laborers. Local labor was used. On August 6, 1906, work was started on the river bridge. In due time the power lines were completed from the dam to Northumberland. In September of that year, Sunbury granted to the trolley company a right of way on Front Street. On December 3, 1906, the dam and power plant were called completed and 16,000 volts were being furnished to Northumberland. Selinsgrove had already contracted for arc lights of 2,000-candle power at sixty dollars per arc light per year, to illuminate the borough streets, day and night service. On January 19, 1907, the arc lights were turned on for the first time in Selinsgrove. In the construction

of the dam 232,000 feet of lumber, 1,650 barrels of cement, 653 tons of sand, and 1,500 perches of stone were used. The river bridge was completed October 1, 1907, and the first trolley car crossed the bridge December 4, 1907.

Because the steam plant at Northumberland and the Electric Dam on the Middle Creek could not adequately care for the marked increase in business, a further expansion of the enterprise was found necessary. The Middlecreek Electric Company had already invested \$225,000 and felt it could not expand any further, so the Northumberland County Gas and Electric Company bought out the Middlecreek Electric Company on October 11, 1911, for \$223,500. On April 20, 1920, the Northumberland County Gas and Electric Company merged with other power and light companies to form the present Pennsylvania Power and Light Company. On June 8, 1909, Middleburg organized its own Light, Heat, and Power Company and began to generate its own light and heat beginning on August 26, 1909.

The United States Mail Service

The first postal service in this section of Pennsylvania began in the town of Northumberland in 1796. This post office served the entire county of Northumberland for the period of one year. In 1797, a post office was opened at Sunbury, and in 1803, a third one was established at Lewisburg. In 1808, the post office at Selinsgrove was opened with Jacob Lechner as the first postmaster. Lechner was a prominent man in the local community in that day. He was a brother-in-law of Simon Snyder, a road-viewer, surveyor, and contractor. By 1830, there were seven post offices, including Selinsgrove, in the territory now known as Snyder County. These were in Middleburg (1814), Freeburg (1818), Mt. Pleasant Mills (1818), McKees Half Falls (1828), Beavertown (1815), and Keensville (now Shamokin Dam) (1830). During the following years the number of post offices increased very rapidly so that by 1875 there were twenty-two post offices in Snyder County. In all, at one time or another, there have been forty-four post offices in Snyder County. In 1948, there were sixteen post offices in the county.

The Post Offices of the County

The following constitutes a complete list of all the post offices of Snyder County that have been operating at

one time or another, alphabetically arranged with the dates of their establishment. Those post offices marked with an asterisk are operating today (1948).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Aline (1875-1906) | *23. Middleburg (1814-) |
| 2. Bannerville (1868-1904) | *24. Middlecreek (1838-) |
| *3. Beavertown (1815-) | 25. Middleswarth (1888-1906) |
| *4. Beaver Springs (1850-) | *26. Mt. Pleasant Mills (1818-) |
| 5. Benfer (1898-1940) | 27. Pallas (1870-1904) |
| 6. Chapman (1857-1906) | *28. Paxtonville (1874-) |
| 7. Cosgrove Hall (1842-1869) | *29. Penns Creek (1842-) |
| 8. Crossgrove (1892-1904) | 30. Port Ann (1904-1906) |
| 9. Dundore (1880-1906) | *31. Port Trevorton (1854-) |
| *10. Freeburg (1818-) | 32. Produce (1902-1906) |
| 11. Globe Mills (1880-1932) | 33. Ritter (1900-1904) |
| 12. Hoffer (1883-1910) | 34. Salem (1870-1904) |
| **13. Hummels Wharf (1874-) | 35. Schnee (1900-1904) |
| 14. Kantz (1858-1912) | *36. Selinsgrove (1808-) |
| 15. Kissimmee (1900-1912) | 37. Shadle (1888-1904) |
| 16. Kratzerville (1846-1934) | *38. Shamokin Dam (1830-) |
| *17. Kreamer (1856-) | 39. Shreiner (1898-1904) |
| 18. Lowell (1888-1904) | 40. Strouptown (1888-1906) |
| *19. McClure (1875-) | *41. Swineford (1889-) |
| 20. McKees Half Falls (1828-1918) | *42. Troxelville (1855-) |
| 21. Meiser (1874-1879) | 43. Verdilla (1883-1906) |
| 22. Meiserville (1884-1920) | 44. Yerger (1898-1901) |

**The post office was first at Mt. Pleasant Mills, then removed to Fremont but retained the former name. Then another post office was established at Mt. Pleasant Mills called Schnee.

The Hummels Wharf Post-office was discontinued between 1904 and 1933 and the residents were served by the R. F. D., at first from Winfield and later from Northumberland.

There were two systems of mail delivery in the early years of the postal service. These were by means of the post rider, carrying the mail in his saddlebags, and later by the stagecoach. The mail generally was delivered at intervals of two weeks. As early as 1798 mail was delivered from Harrisburg to Sunbury and Northumberland. In 1815, according to the Union Times published in New Berlin, a mail route existed between Selinsgrove and Fanetsburg, Franklin County, by way of Mifflintown. In 1819, a weekly mail route was established from Frederick, Maryland, through Gettysburg, Carlisle, Millerstown, Mt. Pleasant Mills, and Selinsgrove to Sunbury. By 1830, stagecoaches had largely replaced the post rider of earlier days. With the canal came the packet boat that rendered tri-weekly mail service between Harrisburg and Northumberland, and with the coming of the railroad came daily mail service.

When post offices were first established, there were no

envelopes for the letters. The sheets were folded and held together with sealing wax or a string, and the address was written on the outside page. The letters were written by quills with home-made ink made out of poke-berries or lamp-black mixed with rain water. There were no postage stamps. The price of mailing a single sheet letter was paid at the receiving end and varied according to the distance traveled instead of its weight. For a distance not exceeding thirty miles the cost was six cents; from thirty to eighty miles, ten cents; from eighty to 150 miles, twelve and one-half cents; from 150 to 400 miles, eighteen and three-fourth cents; for over 400 miles, twenty-five cents. When the letter consisted of double-sheets, the rates were still higher. In 1847, the first postage stamps came into use. The postal rates then were from two cents up until the year 1932 when the postage rates were increased to three cents per ounce. Postal cards were first introduced in 1872. The business of the post office in the early days was conducted differently from what it is today. Individual persons would purchase their stamps at the time of mailing a letter but mercantile establishments, companies, and corporations would be privileged to receive credit. These organizations were privileged to make payments monthly for stamps upon the presentation of a bill from the postmaster.

When stamps were first introduced, the people used them in place of currency in sending money through the mail. Soldiers wanted to send part of their pay check to their families back home and in this way the use of stamps for currency developed into a big and rather burdensome business. This practice became so common that the government ordered it discontinued in 1862, and stamps could be bought only for mailing purposes. For providing ways and means to send money through the mails, the money order system got started through the post office. This system was put into operation in 1864. It was done largely to provide a convenient and safe way for the soldiers to send money home to their families, and was a far more convenient way for the postmasters to handle the business. On January 1, 1913, the parcel post system began in the county. As a practical joke, it is reported that the first package in Selinsgrove to be delivered by parcel post consisted of a large, red brick which was sent by Dr. W. A. Ulsh to R. Lloyd Schroyer. The year 1912 marked the advent of air-mail in Snyder County.

At first the post office was housed in various places. There was no such thing as a special building called the post office. When Mrs. George Keene was postmistress at Keensville in 1830, the post office was located in the hotel, now known as Hotel Logan. The mail was distributed at certain periods only during the day and at no other time. At such periods, the door would be unlocked and the residents would line up for their mail, but as soon as the mail was distributed, the door was locked again. At Middleburg, the post office during Civil War days was in the home of the postmaster. At another period the post office was in the bar-room of the Black Horse Hotel. There was a large drawer under the bar in which the mail was kept and delivered to the citizens. At other times, the post office was located in the barbershop, drugstore, or in the bank building. Often people didn't get mail for an entire week. One person coming to the post office usually carried the mail home for his neighbors. The post office proved to be the news-distributing center for the community. In the days of the stagecoach when the mail coach arrived, the people followed it from the time it entered the town, eager for the latest news. One must recall that daily newspapers were few in number in the community at the time.

The income from the post office was exceedingly limited so that postmasters had to have some additional employment to make a living. For example, Frederick Deering, the second postmaster of Selinsgrove (1811-1831) received \$43.09 for his services for the year 1825. In 1835 the salary of the postmaster had increased to \$127.32. The post office receipts for the year 1827 were correspondingly low. For that year, the receipts for the Adamsburg postmaster were \$44.05; for Beavertown, \$20.19; for Middleburg, \$41.77; for Salem, \$15.98; and for Selinsgrove, \$101.27.

After the days of the post rider, all mail sent to the smaller towns was carried by the stagecoach known as the Star Route Carriers. The mail was carried in a closed pouch to a post office where the people personally called for their mail. Star Routes were begun out of Selinsgrove in 1851. Mail service was given weekly from Selinsgrove through Kratzerville and New Berlin to Mifflinburg. The following year a mail route was established from Selinsgrove to Mifflintown. At this time these Star Routes began to carry passengers. The fare from Selinsgrove to

Williamsport was \$1.62 and from Selinsgrove to Mifflintown, \$1.50. The first one operated between McKees Half Falls through Mt. Pleasant Mills to Middleburg, by which the mail was carried in open bags and delivered to families along the route. The Rural Free Delivery Routes out of Middleburg began in 1904, and out of Selinsgrove in 1905. As late as 1932, two Star Routes still operated out of Middleburg to Mt. Pleasant Mills and to Mifflinburg. Prior to this time, Star Routes operated out of Middleburg to Freeburg, Mt. Pleasant Mills, and McKees Half Falls. Selinsgrove had three routes and the carriers were A. D. Carey, William H. Loose, and John F. Wagenseller. Free mail delivery, twice per day, in Selinsgrove started in 1918 with Frank N. Gaugler and M. T. Jarrett as the carriers.

The Snyder County Newspapers

In 1850, so far as we know, there wasn't a single printing press in the territory now known as Snyder County. By 1867, there were six printing presses. Prior to the organization of the county, New Berlin, the county seat of Union County, was considered a great newspaper town. It is amazing to learn the number of newspapers that were published at one time or another in that town. One cannot help but wonder how it was possible for a sparse population to support all of them, even in the face of the fact that many of them had but a temporary existence.

For our present purpose, there is no need for a complete and detailed history of all the newspapers published at some time or another within the confines of the territory of old Union County. This account will be largely restricted to the newspapers published in New Berlin and then only to those newspapers related directly or indirectly to the newspapers of Snyder County. About 1842, the Evangelical Association published THE EVANGELICAL MESSENGER, a religious paper, and DER CHRISTLICHER BOTSCHAFTER, a German paper, in New Berlin in the interests of the Evangelical Church. Somewhat later the AMERICAN LUTHERAN was published in Selinsgrove in the interests of the Lutheran Church. In 1828, the ANTI-MASONIC STAR began its publication in New Berlin. In 1839, it became known as the UNION STAR and Israel Gutelius served as the editor from 1839 to 1843. This paper ceased to exist in 1857. In 1834, the UNION ADLER

was founded, and in 1842 the UNION DEMOKRAT, a German newspaper, made its first appearance in New Berlin. In 1841, another New Berlin paper was established by the name of THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE AND FAMILY VISITOR but it continued in existence less than two years and then moved to Mifflinburg. A temperance paper called the GOOD SAMARITAN was published in New Berlin. Later on it was sold and was brought to Middleburg in 1854. This was evidently the first newspaper published in Middleburg. It was printed in the German language and was edited at first by Andrew J. Peters who had previously established it in New Berlin. Later the paper was published by Sheriff Daniel Bollender. Its publication was discontinued in 1875.

The Middleburg Post

THE MIDDLEBURG POST has its beginnings rooted in several newspapers published in New Berlin during the period when that town was the county seat of Union County. These were the UNION ADLER and the UNION DEMOKRAT, founded in the years 1834 and 1842 respectively, and published by Seebold and Haus with Christian Moser as the editor, up to about 1850. They were merged in 1844, and retained the name of the latter. About 1850, the paper passed into the hands of Israel Gutelius. It was a staunch Whig newspaper, published in German, and was very active in the campaigns during those years when the division of the county was so much agitated. This newspaper was published in New Berlin until the spring of 1853 when it was moved to Selinsgrove by Calvin W. Gutelius. Until 1861 it was published there as THE DEMOKRAT in a building located on the site of Dr. Peter Klingler's drugstore. In that year it began to be printed in the English language, its politics became Republican, and its name was changed to the SELINSGROVE POST. This paper continued to be published in Selinsgrove until January 1, 1867, when it was purchased by Jeremiah Crouse, and removed to Middleburg, where it became known as the Middleburg Post. In 1882, the paper was sold to Thomas H. Harter of Centre County. Mr. Harter continued to publish it until 1894 when he sold it to George W. Wagenseller and Arthur E. Cooper, both of Selinsgrove. This partnership was dissolved in about nine months and Wagenseller became the sole owner and editor. The business was incorporated under the name of THE MIDDLE-

BURG POST COMPANY in 1921 by Wagenseller. He continued the publication of the Post until 1928.

During the editorships of Harter and Wagenseller (1882-1928), the MIDDLEBURG POST attained its greatest prominence as a rural newspaper. It covered the news of the county in a very comprehensive fashion. All communities were given equal consideration. Its popularity was indicated by its large list of subscribers. The things that popularized the paper probably more than anything else were the articles and letters written by Harter in the Pennsylvania German dialect. These were always chock-full of homely philosophy pertaining to corrupt politics, social problems, dishonest practices, and the simple life of the common people, all of which struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the simple-minded, rustic, hard-working, honest Pennsylvania Germans. Each weekly issue of the POST was eagerly awaited, and the "Brief fom Hawsa Barrick", addressed to "My Liever Kernel Harder", and signed by "Gottlieb Boonastiel" was among the first articles to be read by the members of the family. The characteristic cartoon of old Boonastiel as a discontented old man arrayed in shoddy clothes and sitting on an old barrel with legs crossed and toes extending from each of his boots, appeared at the head of the corresponding column of each weekly issue of the paper. Boonastiel contributed no little bit to the great popularity and the wide circulation of the "POST" during those forty-six years of Harter's and Wagenseller's editorships.

Much credit also belongs to the POST for the work done in collecting and preserving data pertaining to the history of our county. In going through the files for three-quarters of a century, one is impressed with the amount of space devoted to local history. And all this was done in a day when County Historical Societies were little active or even non-existent, and when the rank and file of readers had little or no interest in events long since forgotten. A comprehensive record of the soldiers of Snyder County in the first World War (1917-1918), compiled and published by the Post with painstaking care and prodigious labor, constitutes an invaluable, detailed account of the military training and services of each individual soldier of that great conflict. Much credit is due Editor Wagenseller and his associates for their interest and foresight in preparing the record.

The subsequent history of the MIDDLEBURG POST

may be briefly told. In 1928, the Charles and Ritter Print Shop of Middleburg was consolidated with the POST. About this time, Wagenseller sold his share of the stock to Meredith Meyers and Walter E. Fosnot of the Lewistown Sentinel Company. The consolidated company was re-organized and recapitalized in amount from \$35,000 to \$50,000, and Edwin Charles was made editor; Harry R. Ritter, manager; and Clara R. Winey, secretary-treasurer. The POST building was considerably enlarged and a larger press was installed. Editor Edwin Charles died in 1933 and Harry R. Ritter, who was selected as his successor, has continued in that capacity to the present time.

The Selinsgrove Times

The history of the SELINSGROVE TIMES begins with a newspaper published in Mifflinburg shortly before that town was selected temporarily as the county seat of Union County. This paper was known as the UNION. It was brought to New Berlin in 1815 when that town was chosen permanently the county seat of Union County. In 1822, this newspaper merged with another New Berlin paper known as the NEW BERLIN GAZETTE (established in 1816), and became known as the UNION TIMES. This paper was Democratic in politics. In 1825, John Cummings acquired the paper and from that time on for the next seventeen years, the UNION TIMES had a checkered career having at least six different publishers. In 1842, it was published by Jacob Reichley and Company, John M. Baum being the editor.

Shortly after the division of the old Union County, Daniel S. Boyer, Henry Motz, and others purchased the UNION TIMES of New Berlin and moved it to Freeburg where it was published for about three months. The paper was then sold to a Middleburg publisher and merged with the SNYDER COUNTY JOURNAL, (established in 1855) and was published in Middleburg as the JOURNAL AND TIMES. In December, 1857, Frank Weirick purchased the half-interest in the paper from Simon Niewahl, and in April, 1858, moved it to Selinsgrove and called it the SELINSGROVE TIMES. The two men were in partnership until 1861 when Weirick became the sole owner and publisher. THE TIMES was first housed on the second floor of the Eby Building on Market Street (Arthur D. Carrey Store). Later it was moved to the historic Pepper Box on Market Street which stood on the present site of the

Community Center building. The Pepper Box was a brick structure and called so because of its octahedral shape, resembling the pepper box of domestic use. It was in the Pepper Box that the TIMES was published during the stormy days of the Civil War and immediately thereafter. With the removal of the Pepper Box building, the printing press was installed in the editor's own private home on North Water Street where it remained until 1882 when Mr. T. Benton Ulrich became the owner and publisher.

The newspaper plant was then moved from Weirick's home to the Odd Fellows Hall on Market Street (Community Center). In 1886, Ulrich sold the paper to Joseph G. Leshar who moved the plant to the back room of the App Building on the northeast corner of Walnut and Market Streets. Later he moved the plant to the Eckbert Building, on the southeast corner of Pine and Market. Leshar was the editor of the SELINSGROVE TIMES for twenty-four years (1886-1910). Leshar was a staunch Democrat, a dynamic personality in local and state politics, a colorful publisher, and a fearless writer of trenchant editorials. In February, 1910, Leshar sold the TIMES to Marion S. Schoch, and moved to Huntingdon to become the owner and publisher of the HUNTINGDON MONITOR. During these years the "TIMES" was published in the back part of the storeroom now occupied by the Atlantic and Pacific Store. In 1927, the paper was moved to its present quarters on South Market Street next to the Trinity Lutheran Church. The SELINSGROVE TIMES has always been a Democratic paper, and the only paper of that party affiliation in Snyder County since the publication of the FREEBURG NEWS in 1885. In September, 1940, the TIMES celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of the newspaper, and the thirtieth year of the ownership and editorship of Marion S. Schoch. In 1944 Schoch purchased the Snyder County Tribune, and published the merged papers under the name of the SELINSGROVE TIMES-TRIBUNE.

The Snyder County Tribune

The SNYDER COUNTY TRIBUNE was founded in Middleburg in 1854. "THE TRIBUNE" and Joseph A. Lumbard are inseparable. Lumbard became affiliated with this paper immediately after the close of the Civil War. Upon returning from the army in 1865, he assumed the position of foremanship of the TRIBUNE at Middleburg.

John Bilger was the editor and publisher at the time. In October, 1866, he became part owner, and in 1874 the full owner, editor, and publisher. The TRIBUNE continued to be published at Middleburg until 1871 when the paper was moved to Selinsgrove where it was published until 1944. The TRIBUNE was first housed in the App building on the northeast corner of Market and Walnut Streets. In the big fire of 1872, the building, equipment, and supplies were completely destroyed. This proved a total loss since the insurance on the equipment and supplies had not yet been transferred from Middleburg to Selinsgrove. Undaunted and undismayed, Editor Lumbard succeeded in issuing his paper again just two weeks after the destruction of his plant. Upon the rebuilding of the App Building, the press was housed in the new App Building until Lumbard retired from the newspaper business in 1913.

Upon his retirement, he sold the SNYDER COUNTY TRIBUNE in July, 1913, to Harry A. Coryell, Esquire, and Garfield Phillips. A little later Attorney Coryell sold his legal rights in the newspaper to Edward Wingard who in turn sold his rights to Garfield Phillips. Phillips then became the sole owner of the SNYDER COUNTY TRIBUNE. The paper was then published in the building next to the Calvin North property, the site of the present First National Bank. Garfield Phillips suspended the publication of the paper in 1917 because of his enlistment in the armed service of the United States. Upon his return home from the war, he sold the TRIBUNE to his brother, Benjamin T. Phillips, who was the owner and editor until 1929. From that year until 1944, his sisters, Mary and Aberdeen Phillips, were the owners and the editors. In 1944, the SNYDER COUNTY TRIBUNE was purchased by Marion S. Schoch, and was merged with the SELINSGROVE TIMES.

Joseph A. Lumbard (1844-1915) was in many respects a remarkable newspaper man and an excellent public-spirited citizen. For forty-seven years, he was the guiding spirit of this newspaper. His parting message to his subscribers upon retirement from the editorship reveals something of the life and character of the man:

In January, 1866, we became the editor of the "Snyder County Tribune". We have endeavored to discharge the duties devolving upon us to the best of our ability. That we have made many mistakes, no one knows better than we. We

have labored honestly and consistently for the welfare and the success of the Republican Party. We have always had the courage of our convictions and with honesty and ability to defend the same. We have always given our best to uphold moral questions that had for their object the betterment of social and moral conditions of the community.

The Snyder County News

One of the newspapers published in Middleburg some years ago was known as the SNYDER COUNTY NEWS. Its owner and publisher was Parsons Scott Ritter (1862-1932), a native of Jackson Township, a former student of Missionary Institute, a county school teacher for five years, sheriff of Snyder County (1897-1899), and the first person to hold the office of Sealer of Weights and Measures of Snyder County. After his term of office as sheriff in 1899, P. Scott Ritter became the owner and publisher of the MIDDLEBURG NEWS ITEM, a Democratic paper. He bought it at sheriff's sale and then changed it into a Republican paper and gave it the name of the SNYDER COUNTY NEWS. After publishing it for twelve years until 1911, he sold it to Frank S. Wagenseller, Esquire, who in turn sold it in 1914 to A. D. Gougler and R. M. Barton. In 1916, the paper was bought by George W. Wagenseller, editor of the MIDDLEBURG POST, who merged it with the Post, and the SNYDER COUNTY NEWS lost its identity as a separate newspaper of the county.

The Adamsburg Herald

Ammon M. Aurand served his home town of Beaver Springs as a newspaper man and publisher for about one-third of a century. On March 5, 1887, he launched the first issue of the ADAMSBURG HERALD. With the change of the name of the town from Adamsburg to Beaver Springs at the beginning of the present century came also the change of the name of the newspaper to the SNYDER COUNTY WEEKLY HERALD. The paper grew rapidly in circulation and size until it became one of the largest papers in this central area of the state. It had a large circulation in the western part of the county and in the eastern portion of Mifflin County. The paper was housed in a two-story building. In addition to the printing of the local weekly, considerable job work, books, and other publications came from its press. It is said that Aurand's printing and publishing business for a time averaged \$25,000 per year. Reference need be made here to but two of the popular books published by the Aurand

Press. The one was that well-known book called THE DEVIL IN THE CHURCH which ran through several editions, and in all upwards of 50,000 copies were sold; the other was SATAN IN SOCIETY. These two books could be designated the "best-sellers" fifty years ago. These books were sold by subscription agents and were eagerly purchased by many people.

In 1909, Ammon M. Aurand's son, A. Monroe Aurand, Jr., became prominently identified with the printing and publishing business of his father. In 1914, a linotype machine was introduced. In 1923, the WEEKLY HERALD, except the printing equipment, was sold to C. A. Baker of McClure, and was combined with the McCLURE PLAIN DEALER. Since 1928, Ammon M. Aurand and his son, A. Monroe Aurand, Jr., have been operating a large bookstore at 900 North Third Street, Harrisburg, specializing not only in second-hand books on Pennsylvania history, but also in the writing, the printing, and publishing of nearly two score books and pamphlets on source materials connected with local history such as the dialect, customs, superstitions, and the traditions of the Pennsylvania German people.

The McClure Plain Dealer

The McCLURE PLAIN DEALER, named after the Cleveland, Ohio, PLAIN DEALER, was established in McClure in 1905 by Ambrose W. Aurand, the foreman of the A. M. Aurand Printing and Publishing House of Beaver Springs. Ambrose W. Aurand was a brother of Ammon M. Aurand, Sr., the founder, editor, and publisher of the WEEKLY HERALD of Beaver Springs. He published the PLAIN DEALER until March, 1906, when he sold it to Mr. C. A. Baker. Since Mr. Aurand wanted to discontinue the newspaper business and locate elsewhere, Mr. Baker was prevailed upon to make the purchase. Mr. Baker had been a school teacher of the county for five years, and at the time of the purchase was employed in the furniture factory in McClure. Being wholly inexperienced in newspaper work, Mr. Aurand agreed to remain for two weeks to teach the new owner how to get out a newspaper, to set type by hand, make up forms, set jobs for commercial printing, edit a newspaper, and to do the printing. For some reason or other, Mr. Aurand did not carry out this contract, and Mr. Baker was left stranded without an instructor or even without an experienced

assistant from the very beginning. No wonder Editor Baker became a very discouraged newspaper man in the very beginning of his new enterprise for he says: "If I would have had my money back at the end of the second week, there would either be no PLAIN DEALER today or else someone else would have been steering its course ever since. But the money had been borrowed and paid over to the seller, and there was only one thing to do—'sink or swim'. I made up my mind to swim, but it proved a tremendous task for me up an unsurveyed stream."

The original size of the PLAIN DEALER was a tabloid of four pages of home print and four pages of patent print. It was printed on the second floor of the Ulsh Brothers Store, located on the corner of Wall and Brown Streets. In less than a year, its size was increased to a six column quarto, and not having a press of the required size, it had to be printed on the press of the Beaver Springs WEEKLY HERALD. The forms of type were made up at McClure, taken by express train to Beaver Springs, printed and returned the same day, and mailed at McClure. In course of time, a larger press was purchased and the printing of the newspaper was done at McClure. When Mr. Baker purchased the Beaver Springs WEEKLY HERALD in 1923, the PLAIN DEALER was still further enlarged to an eight-page, six column paper. It was then that type-setting by hand was replaced by a linotype machine. This machine practically revolutionized the newspaper business to the extent that more type could be set with less labor, better advertising facilities were established, and the subscription list was greatly enlarged. In 1928 a new printing office was erected on Specht Street in which the PLAIN DEALER has been published ever since.

The distinctive area of the PLAIN DEALER readers is largely restricted to the western part of Snyder County and the eastern part of Mifflin County. In politics the PLAIN DEALER is Republican. So far as the liquor traffic is concerned, it is dry in its principles. Mr. Baker states that "never in the history of the PLAIN DEALER under its present ownership have liquor advertisements been accepted and published". The McCLURE PLAIN DEALER is the youngest newspaper in Snyder County.

The Freeburg Courier

This newspaper was first published in Selinsgrove by the name of the CENTRAL COURIER with E. P. Rohbach

and A. G. Rohbach as the editors. The paper was removed to Freeburg in 1867 with D. B. Moyer and Calvin F. Moyer as the editors and proprietors. In the following year it assumed the name of the FREEBURG COURIER. This joint editorship continued until the death of D. B. Moyer in 1874 when Henry B. Moyer purchased the interests of the deceased, and the paper was continued with Henry B. Moyer and Calvin F. Moyer as the editors and proprietors. The Courier was printed in a two-story building on the south side of Market Street between South and East Streets. Upon the retirement of Calvin F. Moyer, Henry B. Moyer became the sole owner and Edwin S. Willis was made the editor. Sometime later Henry B. Moyer sold the paper to Edwin S. Willis, who, after publishing it for several years, sold the paper back to Henry B. Moyer, and he in turn sold it to William F. Brown in 1905. Mr. Brown moved the office into a new building on the south side of Market Street between New East and Willow Streets. Brown installed a linotype machine which enabled him to do the work which formerly required the work of several men. The COURIER was always Republican in politics. The publishing of the COURIER was discontinued in 1934.

A second newspaper made its appearance in Freeburg for a short time. It was called the FREEBURG NEWS and was established by L. G. Early in July, 1885, with its office on Market Street in a small building used later as a cigar factory operated by the Gilbert Brothers and used today as a music shop. The paper was discontinued after a few years. It was Democratic in its politics.

The Fire Companies of the County

Fire has been man's great friend in providing him with the comforts, the conveniences, and the necessities of life. Fire has been an indispensable agency in the making of our civilization. On the other hand, fire has also been one of man's greatest enemies. Man had to wage an incessant warfare against it, for the protection of his life and property. Fire fighting at first consisted of the age-old bucket brigade. Every household was a potential fire company since all of its members old enough to carry a bucket belonged to the company, and the nearest well or stream was the first source of water. Later the "town pump" usually located at an important street corner, was

the forerunner of the pumper of today. The bucket brigade lined up between the source of the water supply and the fire. The filled buckets were passed along to the burning building and the empty ones were returned to be filled again. With such inadequate means of fighting fires and the buildings of the town largely wooden structures, it isn't any wonder that a fire frequently spelled the doom of the town.

The bucket brigade in course of time was replaced by the fire engine. After the death of Simon Snyder in 1819, Henry W. Snyder, his son (1797-1866), became the owner of the Isle of Que Mills, located at the foot of Mill Street. Following a fire in 1828, Snyder purchased a hand fire engine called "The Arrow" in Philadelphia. The fire engine was brought to Selinsgrove by canal, railroad, and finally by flat-boat and horse-wagon. This brought about the formation of the first fire company known as "The Arrow", in what is now known as Snyder County. Mr. Snyder first bought it for the protection of his own Isle of Que Mills, but later sold it to the town. It was a cumbersome sort of an affair. In case of a fire, the water had to be pumped first by the town pump into the box tank of the engine and from there pumped by the engine into the leather hose. The force of the stream depended on the vigor of the pumping. "The Arrow" engine is still in existence as a priceless relic in the fire house of the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Company. The third stage in the history of the local fire fighting occurred following the disastrous fire of 1872. By acts of the assembly, borough councils were empowered to purchase fire-fighting apparatus to insure adequate fire protection to the borough. A new Silsby Steam Fire Engine together with two hose carriages and 1,000 feet of hose was purchased. The engine had the capacity to throw a powerful stream of water from Penn's Creek to almost every house in the borough. The steamer had to be towed by hand. To protect the intake from the loose stones, barrels or drums were sunk into the creek at the foot of the streets leading to the creek. A new fire company was organized under the name of the Susquehanna Fire Company Number One. A new fire house was constructed that is occupied today by the present fire company. Trouble developed with the rubber hose and leather hose was secured in 1874. This new type of hose required special attention by rubbing it by hand with hot tallow and crude oil. The fire alarm was sounded by a tapper on the bell of

the Trinity Lutheran Church. From eight to twelve minutes after the alarm, the engine was ready to pump. Another hand engine was purchased called the "Friendship", but it proved less efficient and came to an untimely end by being totally destroyed in the fire of 1874.

Following the big fire of 1874, the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Company was organized in November, 1874. Popular subscriptions soon placed the new company in good shape. This organization has furnished the means of protection against fires in the community for more than seventy years. Selinsgrove has had three fire companies throughout its history—The Arrow, the Susquehanna, and the Dauntless. The Arrow ceased upon the advent of the steamer, and the Susquehanna passed out of existence with the coming of the water mains, in the mistaken idea that steam pressure was no longer needed. The steam fire engine of the Susquehanna Company was traded for a stone crusher plus some cash in an ill-advised deal by the borough council. In 1924, the first motorized fire truck was purchased by the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Company. Later it was sold and a Buffalo Pumper was secured. In 1926, the present Hahn Pumper and Ladder Truck were added.

During the last four decades, the urge for better fire protection spread in the county, particularly in towns where water mains had been laid. This spread was based on the knowledge that motorized apparatus would put every community within reach of modern fire-fighting protection. In November, 1903, the Reliance Hose Company, Number One, was organized at Middleburg. This was followed in 1905 by the Volunteer Fire Company of McClure; by the Beaver Springs Volunteer Fire Company in 1926; by the Fremont Fire Company in 1926; by the Shamokin Dam Volunteer Fire Company in 1930; by the Hummels Wharf Fire Company in 1931; and by the Beavertown Fire Company in 1939.

The fire at Richfield in 1925 proved to be the great incentive for better fire protection for Mt. Pleasant Mills and vicinity. Accordingly, the Fremont Fire Department was organized in 1926, and incorporated in 1931. Its headquarters are in a building located on the Mahantango Creek in the town. The equipment at first consisted simply of a chemical outfit, later it consisted of a pumper, and today of a motorized pumper, including a booster tank of 300 gallons capacity and a fire truck with an aux-

iliary pump, 1,600 feet of hose, and ladders. The value of the equipment is approximately \$15,000. The memberships of 130 persons furnish their own rubber coats and hats, and serve without pay. There is a firemen's relief fund made possible by revenue from the State for the purpose of providing medical care for any members injured. The expenses of the fire company are met by dues, a tax of one mill on the assessed property of the township, and by donations and festivals. A Ladies' Auxiliary was organized in 1947 to help to finance, boost, and promote interest in support of the fire company.

Snyder County has now eight volunteer fire companies within its borders, and within helping distances, about fifteen more companies.

The membership of the eight companies totals about 1,700 men. In support of these companies are women's auxiliaries with a membership of approximately 300. A grand total of about 2,000 citizens of the county are directly identified with the ways and means for protecting the lives and property of the residents from fire. These fire companies represent an investment of around \$165,000 in apparatus, equipment, and real estate. There is not a salaried member among them, and yet day or night, rain or sunshine, hail or snow, storm or heat, these fire fighters respond to any call for help at any time regardless of distance, cause, or person. Some of the companies receive financial assistance from their district, but as a rule the apparatus and equipment are purchased from funds received from dues, donations, community drives, and similar sources. Most of the companies hold annual fairs, festivals, cake-walks, shows, or entertainments by local talent to replenish their treasury. Sometimes companies maintain elaborate kitchen facilities whereby the auxiliary is able to banquet other organizations of the communities.

Nearly all the companies have their own distinctive uniforms purchased by the individual members. The rubber boots, rubber coats, fire hats, and helmets are the property of the company and are kept on the apparatus or in the fire houses. All the apparatus is motor-driven or trailer-drawn. The pumpers can couple to fire plugs in the various towns. When the fire plugs are not available, a nearby stream, dam, well, or a cistern can readily be requisitioned. To cope with situations where neither fire plug nor sizable stream is available, auxiliary tanks, hold-

ing hundreds of gallons of water, are placed on the pump-er trucks for such emergencies.

Each company has its own officers elected by the entire company at stated meetings, who are responsible for the operation and care of the apparatus and equipment, and for the discipline of the members while on duty. There is no centralized organization of all the county companies, but each individual company responds promptly and voluntarily to any call for help from one company to another. Where there is a difference in the threads of the hose couplings of the different companies, compromise couplings are used. None of the companies even has a driver living in the fire house, but all the companies have members living nearby who can quickly respond to calls and have everything in readiness by the time the other members make their appearance. Some of the companies have a fire patrol wagon to pick up members along the way. Companies generally have first aid crews to care for injured members or citizens at a fire. Fire alarms are usually given by telephone. The operator calls the fire house or some designated industry having a high-powered whistle capable of being heard far and wide. The whistle sounds the alarm in code indicating the location of the fire.

The Selinsgrove Water Works Controversy*

The controversy that centered around the construction of the Selinsgrove Water Works appeared to be one of the biggest issues that ever came to the attention of the local borough government and the citizens of this community. Like most of the problems in a democratic society, the contest ultimately became a political battle and raged around personalities instead of around the material situation that incited it. What should rightfully have been the major issue in the local water works fight, in due time became secondary in importance. Of course this often happens to be the case in questions of disagreement on community projects. It becomes difficult for an outsider to understand how the construction of a water works plant alone should be the single cause of dividing a population of 1,500 people into two hostile camps, and to keep them at variance with each other over a period of a decade or

*Consult files of the Selinsgrove Times and the Snyder County Tribune (1886-1889), and the Equity Docket 1, (235), Prothonotary's Office, Middleburg.

more. One may at least suspect that the water works issue in Selinsgrove in itself was simply a precipitating factor of other and more serious disagreement along different lines instead of being the fundamental situation that basically engendered the neighborhood fight. I shall not even venture to speculate just what these underlying conditions may have been. Even had the writer been an adult at the time and had gone through it like all the rest, he might not know. Probably nobody knows, not even the controversialists themselves. Oftimes people have battled among themselves without really knowing "just why they fought each other for" except that "it ended in a famous victory." The Selinsgrove Water Works fight appears to have been an example of just this sort of thing. The story is interesting because it so well illustrates the time-consuming and the frequently inefficient workings of a government by the people.

It passes all understanding just how a little fire can become so large that it will destroy an entire borough or even city. One must remember that it is not the fire alone that proves so destructive; it is the condition of the weather at the time, the nature of the wind, the condition of the buildings, and the availability of adequate fire-fighting apparatus. It is not alone the rebuilding of the town, but the cleaning away of the rubble that constitutes the real task. This seems to be the situation whether the destruction is material or spiritual, and if both, then the rebuilding becomes increasingly more difficult. The Selinsgrove Water Works controversy continued to be a festering sore for a long time. The citizens became estranged, Sunday School Classes were broken up into opposing groups, church members were arrayed against one another, the prayer meetings became less cordial, the town residents became accustomed to pass one another on the streets without speaking, and many citizens ignored their own family connections. The controversy was carried into the schools so that the school children took up the quarrel. For a long time Selinsgrove appeared to be a house divided against itself.

What Brought About the Water Works Fight In Selinsgrove?

The situation out of which grew and developed the local controversy undoubtedly has been duplicated again and again in many communities a half-century and more ago.

This controversy has special interest for us since it happened at our very doorsteps in the life time of our parents and grandparents. These local controversies are considered monumental in importance and significance by the participants. Most of these controversies, however, fade away almost completely and become commonplace and insignificant with the passing years. When viewed at a distance of several generations, they even tend to become amusing. One cannot help but wonder why citizens work themselves up into a frenzy about something that the test of time shows to have been just one other thing confronting a democratic society.

Like other communities of its size at the time, the Selinsgrove borough was greatly dependent on well water for drinking, laundry, and fire-fighting protection purposes. Every village and town had its town pumps. Wooden pumps and draw wells or cisterns were pretty well distributed all over the town. These pumps were rather systematically placed and diagonally arranged along the streets. As a rule, one pump was located on the east side, and the next pump on the west side of the same street, in the belief that such an arrangement would be an aid in case of fire. On the Isle of Que, there were many pumps and draw wells. As many as a dozen families obtained their water from one or the other of these wooden pumps. It has been variously estimated that as many as 150 wooden pumps and draw wells were in the town. One can readily see that this was a rather inadequate way to supply the water, but it was the best the town and the times could afford.

In times of fire the bucket brigade proved to be the common mode of protection. This method of fire-fighting was gradually being replaced by the fire engine, water mains, and even reservoirs on neighboring hills. Private water systems preceded public water systems, and some pioneer families retained their own private water systems long after the introduction of public water systems. The march of progress always indicates that old ways of doing things have to be replaced by new and more economic ways. Wells became out-of-date and insanitary with the increase of the population. They tend to become plague spots in modern life. In the private water systems, the water tank was located in the attic and the water had to be pumped into it by hand by the use of an iron force pump and rubber hose. To fill a ten-barrel tank by hand

constituted a tremendous amount of hard muscular work.

Then the congested population of a large town in course of time made the water supply of the town unfit for family use, despite the fact that cheese cloth bags were tied on the spouts to strain the water of impurities. In these old days, little thought was given to the idea that lack of typhoid fever epidemics was the contaminated well water resulting from surface drainage and the lack of a sewage-disposal system. The conditions of the times called for a different source of water supply as the indispensable and the inevitable. Moreover, the losses sustained by the fires of 1872 and 1874 were so enormous that they were simply unforgettable. Selinsgrove had too many fires during the decade following to guarantee safety and comfort to the inhabitants. What aggravated this fear of fire was the fact that the town had at the time very unsatisfactory fire-fighting equipment as well as an inadequate supply of water for protection against fire. All these factors culminated in a popular demand for a change in the condition of affairs.

While the people of the borough were quite generally agreed upon the need for an improved and enlarged water supply system, they soon found themselves in disagreement with respect to the kind of water supply system needed as well as to its ownership and operation. A group of citizens believed the borough should own and operate its own water works. George Schnure, a distinguished banker and business man of the borough, was the recognized leader of the citizens who favored the plan that the borough should build, own, and operate its own water supply system, and whatever profits might accrue be used for the benefit of the borough. THE SELINS-GROVE TIMES supported the cause of George Schnure and his followers. Dr. B. F. Wagenseller was the leader of the citizens who supported the movement in behalf of a privately-owned-and-operated water supply system. This group favored the plan that Peter Herdic of Williamsport should be privileged the exclusive right to supply water for the borough through a private company that he himself would organize and operate. Of course what profits might accrue would necessarily belong to the private company. THE SELINS-GROVE TRIBUNE was the champion of the cause of Dr. Wagenseller and his group. The issue was decided at the polls at a special election in favor of a privately-owned-and-operated water

supply system. Evidently any proposed enterprise that smacked of state socialism had little chance of success in those days. Municipally-owned-and-operated water supply systems were still too remote from the thinking of the majority of the people to be established by the citizens themselves.

Before continuing any further with our story, some information about the life of Peter Herdic (1824-1888)* will be in order. This man had such an important part in the Selinsgrove Water Works Controversy that it is well to know something about him as a resident of Williamsport. He was born at Fort Plain, New York, and rose to prominence in Williamsport as a large contractor, industrial promoter, builder, and public-spirited citizen. He was generous in his contributions to charity, community enterprise, and religious institutions, irrespective of their denominational affiliation. He accomplished much for the city of his adoption in the way of promoting public works, building campaigns, and cultural and religious enterprises. He organized a bank, built the Park Hotel, operated sawmills, erected dwelling houses and church buildings, constructed water works and a street car line for the City of Williamsport, and owned and operated the rubber works and a nail and brush factory. He built up and developed new sections of the city. During the financial panic of 1873, he went into voluntary bankruptcy. It is said that at the time his liabilities totaled \$1,000,000 but within five years after his failure, he not only had redeemed himself, but when his property was turned over to his creditors, its value had increased to \$2,000,000.

What evaluation can be passed on his life and character is difficult to say. He evidently did much for the city of Williamsport. Peter Herdic apparently was one of those men not any too scrupulous about details in business transactions, and must have had a certain lack of conscientiousness when it became necessary to make a choice between what is really honest and right and what is just mere business expediency. This is the impression one gets of him as the contractor and builder of the Selinsgrove Water Works and of his dealings with the borough of Selinsgrove in the ensuing controversy. However, there is no gainsaying that an over-all picture of the story of his life definitely leaves the impression that he did far

*Lloyd's History of Lycoming County—Chapter 43

more good than evil in his rather short life of sixty-four years.

What greatly added to the fuel of the water works controversy was the fact that what started out to be entirely a civic issue soon turned into a political one. A certain group of citizens began to believe that it was necessary to place the official leadership of the borough into different hands in order to set matters right. In consequence, Howard D. Schnure, son of George Schnure, became the candidate for the office of burgess on the Democratic Party ticket in opposition to the incumbent, Dr. B. F. Wagenseller (elected April 14, 1885) on the Republican Party ticket. After a spirited contest, Dr. B. F. Wagenseller won February 16, 1886, over Howard D. Schnure by only five votes. This meant that the leadership for a privately-owned water system remained in power. This tended to make matters worse. Had the election been more one-sided, the citizenry would have been better satisfied. At the borough election in February, 1887, Wagenseller and Schnure were again the opposing candidates. This must have been some sort of a mud-slinging campaign. Dr. Wagenseller was accused of inducing men to vote for him by illegal means in order to secure his election primarily for the purpose of enabling him to continue the program of levying and collecting water rents to pay Peter Herdic and his company even before the water works were completed according to the contract between the borough and the water company.

The Selinsgrove Water Works Company Incorporated

The Selinsgrove Water Works Company was incorporated under the provisions of the General Corporations Act of 1874. Its purpose was to supply water to the public in Selinsgrove for fifty years. The capital stock of the company was \$50,000, divided into 2,000 shares having a par value of \$25 each. The charter was signed by Governor Robert E. Pattison, September 3, 1885. The company had three directors: H. B. Mellick, Peter Herdic, and Samuel McKean. The original subscribers were:

Hiram B. Mellick, Williamsport, Pa.	1,900	Shares
Peter Herdic, " "	92	"
James P. Herdic, " "	4	"
J. W. Leonard, " "	2	"
Samuel McKean, " "	2	"

Negotiations evidently must have been carried on for some

time between the borough officials and Peter Herdic concerning the construction of a water works plant for Selinsgrove, since the town council took action on June 5, 1885, to postpone consideration of the water works project. There also must have been some uncertainty in the minds of the borough officials about the whole matter because on June 16, 1885, the council decided to submit the water works question to a vote of the citizens. This special election was held on June 20, 1885, and resulted in a majority of the citizens voting in support of the privately-owned water system. On July 2, 1885, the borough council decided to ask for sealed bids for the construction of the plant. A contract was entered in July 17, 1885, by the Chief Burgess and the Town Council with Peter Herdic and others of Williamsport for the construction of the system, in spite of the fact that the water company was not chartered until September 3, 1885, or about six weeks after the awarding of the contract.

The Contract of the Borough with the Selinsgrove Water Company

By the contract the Selinsgrove Water Works Company agreed to construct and complete within eight months an effective system of water works, to furnish at all seasons of the year good water in adequate amounts for domestic, manufacturing, and sanitary purposes, and for protection against fire. The water was to come from a well along the creek or river; the reservoir was to be located on a hill about three-fourth of a mile from the river on the Davis farm; the main water pipes were to be of the best cast iron, to range from six to twelve inches in diameter, provided with needed valves and stop gates, and sufficiently strong to withstand a pressure of 300 pounds per square inch. There were to be twenty-five hydrants at an annual rental of forty dollars each, payable quarterly, the hydrants to be attached to the system at appropriate places with enough force to sustain at least six streams flowing from each hydrant at the same time with an inch nozzle, without the aid of a fire engine, to the height of at least seventy feet on Market Street. There was to be one additional hydrant for each 500 feet of additional street extended, at thirty dollars per annum. The water was to be furnished without charge to all public buildings, school buildings, one public fountain, and to an adequate number of drinking fountains and watering

troughs as the town council might determine. The company also agreed to sell the water works to the borough at the end of ten years at a price mutually agreed upon or determined by arbitrators, and the right to buy was to be extended to the borough every ten years.

On the other hand the borough officials obligated themselves to levy a sufficient tax to pay the water rentals; to exempt from all borough taxation the Water Company; to assume the responsibility for any liabilities the Water Company may have at the time of purchase of the company by the borough; and to pass the necessary ordinances to guarantee purity of the water for domestic use.

This contract, whether good or bad, was made known to the citizens of the borough for their examination and knowledge by action of the borough council on October 20, 1885. This happened about three months after the contract was made. There evidently was lurking in the minds of the borough officials at the time some suspicion that Peter Herdic was not living up to the specifications of the contract for the construction of the water works, and that it would be better for the borough officials to take the general public into confidence with respect to the entire matter. The actual work of construction, for some reason or another, was not begun until November 9, 1885, in the digging up of Market Street for the laying of the water mains despite the fact that the entire system was to be completed by March 17, 1886, or within the period of eight months. This delay was only in a small part the fault of the borough officials since only four days after the signing of the contract the town council resolved to locate the fire-plugs in the borough and by September 21, 1885, all of them had been located subject to revision, and on October 6, 1885, the Water Company was given permission to lay pipes through the borough streets. On December 15, 1885, the town council extended the time of completion of the water works by four months. Already in November, 1884, a four-inch pipe line for fire protection had been laid from the foundry landing at the foot of Walnut Street (now Keller's Ice Plant) to Market Street by which water could be pumped from Penn's Creek by the fire engine. On December 22, 1885, the town council took steps toward the removal of this line, and on February 2, 1886, learned that the four-inch line had been sold to contractor Herdic despite the fact that according to the contract, no pipe line could be less than six inches in dia-

meter. On May 8, 1886, the town council made official inquiry of Peter Herdic whether he considered the water works completed, when he was ready to make the required test of the line, and what date he claimed the water rent from the borough. To this inquiry, the contractor gave no notification of any official test of the completion of the line. It appears that the relations between the borough officials and Peter Herdic were strained. From this time, matters went from bad to worse.

On July 15, 1886, the town council held a stormy meeting about the official testing of the line and the rent claimed due by Herdic. On September 7, 1886, the town council received a petition from the borough citizens against the levying of a water tax and simply ordered the petition filed. The bill for two quarters of water rent was laid on the table. In February, 1887, a citizens' petition was sent to the Chief Burgess regarding the contract with the Water Company. The citizens appeared to have some evidence that special concessions had been given by the Water Company to certain residents, in the form of free water rent, who had been enthusiastic promoters of a water system in the nature of a private enterprise instead of a municipally-owned and operated system. In fact, certain members of the town council were stockholders in the Water Company. Open warfare broke out on the part of many of the citizens against both the Water Company, the Chief Burgess, and the Town Council. A bill in equity between George Schnure et al. and Dr. B. F. Wagenseller et al. was filed in the county courts to which exceptions were made and a number of hearings resulted in the Court House at Middleburg and at the National Hotel and the Keystone Hotel (now Governor Snyder) in Selinsgrove. This bill in equity contained the signatures of 116 citizens. It is interesting to note that two of the signatures are in German Script, and four are represented by their mark with witnesses.

This bill in equity gives a good summary of the complaints, the accusations, and charges brought by the citizens against the Water Company and the borough officials. In some respects the charges take on a serious nature. The complaint against the Water Company stated that it failed to complete the water works in the specified time; that the Water Company had not carried out the provisions of the contract in that the water system was defective, incomplete, and ineffective; that the water pump-

ed into the reservoir came from the creek instead of a well, and therefore was unfit for domestic use; that the reservoir was not located on the hill on Davis' farm as per contract but on Ulrich's hill next to Union Cemetery where the water became contaminated by the decomposition of the human bodies interred in the cemetery, and that the force of the stream of water on Market Street was correspondingly diminished by its lower elevation; that many of the water mains were only four inches in diameter instead of six to twelve inches, as per contract, and not made of the best cast-iron and unable to withstand a pressure of 300 pounds per square inch; and that instead of having at least six streams from a hydrant throwing water to the height of seventy feet on Market Street without the aid of a fire engine, the water system was constructed without sufficient force and power to throw even one stream thirty-five feet without the aid of a fire engine.

The complaint against the Chief Burgess and the Borough Council stated that they erred in reaffirming the contract and in extending the time for its completion; that the contract was an unwarranted assumption of power not conferred upon them by the borough charter and the laws of the Commonwealth, and an infringement upon the rights of the citizens, residents, and taxpayers of the borough; that certain officials of the borough were personally interested directly or indirectly in the contract; that they had no rights bestowed on them by the borough charter to exempt from taxation the Water Company, and the exercise of such power was a violation of Article IX, Sections 1, 2, 3, of the State Constitution requiring all taxes to be uniform and limiting the power to exempt from taxation; that the borough officials had made no provision at the time when the contract was made for the collection of an annual tax adequate for the payment of the principal and interest on the indebtedness within thirty years as required by Article IX, Section 10, of the State Constitution; that the indebtedness itself under the contract is a continuing obligation payable in quarterly recurring installments without any positive limitation as to time and amount; that the borough officials, despite these charged violations of the contract, instructed the local fire company to make use of the water system in case of fire, as early as Januray 9, 1886, and make settlements April 21, 1887, with the water company for water rents up to April 1, 1887 with a balance still due the company of

\$894.16; and that the contract was invalid, null, and void since the borough officials were powerless under the charter and the laws of the Commonwealth to agree to receive the coupons of the mortgage bonds issued by the Water Company in payment of the taxes due the borough according to Article IX, Section 7, of the State Constitution prohibiting any borough from lending its credit to any corporation or individual. For all and each one of the reasons enumerated, the complaint claimed that the contract should be cancelled, and that any attempt to carry out the contract was illegal, and that any attempt on the part of the Water Company to collect the alleged debt or to compel the levying of any tax ought to be restrained by law.

On April 27, 1888, the Water Company filed a petition with the courts that the water works were completed, and that it had supplied water to the borough from thirty hydrants since February 1, 1886, and that the annual water rent due from the borough amounted to \$1,150, and that the total claim against the borough from February 1, 1886, to April 1, 1887, was \$1,341.66, on which there remained an unpaid balance of \$894.16, and upon demand of payment, the borough authorities reported no funds with which to make payment, for the reason that the money received from taxes was inadequate to pay the current expenses and the indebtedness, and that the court should issue a writ of mandamus directing the borough officials to collect by special taxation sufficient money to pay the indebtedness. Immediately a large number of citizens and taxpayers filed a petition with the courts not to have such mandamus proceedings, but upon hearing, the court denied the petition on the ground that by law taxpayers and citizens could not intervene. The result was that on July 26, 1888, the court issued a mandamus instructing the borough officials and their successors "to levy and collect a special tax of nine mills on the present assessed valuation of property and to pay the indebtedness of \$2,044.16 with interest to the Water Company". On August 2, 1888, the tax was levied, and the tax duplicate and warrant for the collection of the tax were placed in the hands of B. F. Kantz, the tax collector, for collection.

Little more need be said about the Selinsgrove Water Works controversy. You will recall that the bill on equity contained some very serious charges against the defendants, the Water Company, Chief Burgess and the Town

Council. At the hearing at the county-seat before Judge Bucher in May, 1887, the case was deferred on account of the absence of the plaintiff's counsel. The court appointed F. E. Bower, Esq., Master in the case to take evidence and two hearings were held at the National and Keystone Hotels, Selinsgrove, June, 1887, and July, 1890. The final hearing was held at the Keystone Hotel in April, 1891, before the Honorable Alfred Hayes of Lewisburg, Master in Chancery. He was given full power to decide the issue, and there was to be no appeal from his decision by either party.

Findings of the Master

The Master found that the borough officials had the legal right to enter into a contract with Peter Herdic, July 17, 1885, for the construction of the water works; that the contract was valid; that there was no collusion or fraudulent measures; that the borough officials were not pecuniarily interested in the project; that no debt was created prohibited by the constitution; that the plaintiffs had no legal ground for complaint; and, therefore, the Bill in Equity be dismissed, and the plaintiffs ordered to pay the costs—the master's fees (\$850) and the charges and expenses (\$800) of the stenographer (services, traveling and hotel expenses). This was confirmed by the court and the costs ordered paid by the plaintiffs within ninety days. The plaintiffs filed exceptions to the decision on the ground that the fees were excessive and a re-hearing of the case followed. The final adjustment called for a distribution of the record costs, the costs of the hearings, the fees of the master and the stenographer, and the room rent, the plaintiffs paying one-half; the borough of Selinsgrove one-fourth; and the Selinsgrove Water Company one-fourth.

The reader can now easily understand why the fight was so intense and the wounds so difficult to heal. Surface wounds will heal quickly when the conflict is temporary and when comparatively few people are involved, but when the battle rages fiercely for years and all the able-bodied citizens of both sexes of the borough become engaged on one side or the other, then the wounds become so deep-seated that years are necessary to heal them. Sometimes disasters appear to be necessary to bring out the better nature of the people in the commonplace relationships of life. When bitter feelings about the water works controversy still prevailed in Selinsgrove, a great

sorrow smote the town in the form of a tragic railroad accident at the grade crossing at Kreamer on the morning of January 25, 1895. When the dead and injured were brought home many of the citizens forgot their differences, relented, and became mutually helpful and co-operative citizens once more. It took a calamity of catastrophic size to reunite the people. A great storm was necessary to convince the ship passengers that they were altogether in the same boat, in the storm. It was demonstrated once more that a great misfortune will make people kin to one another by making them forgetful of their differences.

A word needs to be said with respect to the present Selinsgrove Water Supply Company. The original Selinsgrove Water Company continued to do business until 1901 when it became heavily involved in financial troubles and its property, plant, and equipment were sold at sheriff's sale. The present Selinsgrove Water Supply Company is more or less a continuance of the old Selinsgrove Water Company, originally chartered in 1885. The new company immediately transformed the old reservoirs which were scarcely more than holes in the ground into concrete reservoirs and replaced the old inadequate pumping equipment with up-to-date equipment. In 1920 all the steam equipment was replaced with electrically driven pumps. The present reservoir on the hill west of the town was rebuilt in 1935, and in 1945 a new 500-foot well was drilled on the side of the hill reservoir.

CHAPTER 19

The Marts of Trade

Perfect freedom is as necessary to the health and vigor of trade as it is to the health and vigor of citizenship.

Patrick Henry

The Flour and Grist Mill

In very early times, the people prepared their grain for food by grinding it with stones. One stone was used to crush the grains placed in the hollow portion of another stone. This work was done wholly by hand. A little later crudely-constructed mills consisting of two large stones, a lower and stationary stone and an upper and rotating one, came into general use. By means of an opening in the upper stone, the grain was brought between the two stones and was crushed into flour. It required an expert to hew, dress, and shape these mill stones out of the rough rock. An ox or horse was used at first to furnish the power for operating these mills. Before flour mills were built in this section, wheat was sometimes taken to Reading to be ground into flour.

The old grist mills of our forefathers' days had their power provided by water. A huge dam was constructed some distance from the mill and when the dam was filled with water, a flood gate was opened into the race which led to the mill or water wheel. Sometimes the last twenty or thirty feet of the race was built of wood. These mill dams had some elevation or head, as it was called, to give force to the water when it struck the water wheel. The amount of power depended on the height of the dam and the volume of the water. In dry weather most of the mills could operate only part of the time due to lack of water. The water wheel was constructed of wood. The higher the head, the larger was the diameter of the wheel. These water wheels sometimes were as large as twenty-four feet in diameter.

The man who made the machinery for these early grist mills was called a millwright. He was kept busy building new mills and repairing old ones. Mills were generally constructed of stone. The mill ranged in height from two to four stories. The reason for having such a great height was to secure a sufficient elevation for the grain to flow from one floor to another. The huge wheels that were geared to the water-wheel which turned the

stone were made of wood. The rim and spokes were made of the toughest oak-wood; the cogs were made of dry apple or cherry wood. Always a supply of this variety of wood was kept on hand for an emergency. Three stories were needed for the grinding of the flour. The ground wheat had to be elevated and run through a reel. The reel was constructed of wood with tiny holes in a tin and in some way a brush kept these holes open to leave the fine particles of flour pass through, and the coarse part turned to another compartment. Later a cloth was used instead of the tin, and still later a fine silk cloth was used. After the flour was taken out, the remainder was divided into bran and middlings. These were used for feeding stock. The flour was very dark in color because they were unable in those days to remove all the bran or shells of the wheat, and hence the bread was likewise dark in color. The first elevating in these early mills was done by hand with a rope and pulley. Later the device was geared to the other machinery of the mill and the mill power was used instead.

The farmer would take his grain to the mill one day, leave it there for several days, and then make a second trip to the mill to get it. The wheat, corn, or oats, was usually called a "grist". A grist mill served the country for a radius of from three to five miles. The miller would take toll for his compensation for the grinding. The amount of the toll varied. He collected tenths, fifteenth, or perhaps the twentieth bushel. This was for grinding corn, rye, oats, or buckwheat for chop to feed stock. If it were wheat, the toll was known as an exchange. If a farmer brought a bushel of wheat which weighed sixty pounds, the miller would give him thirty-six pounds of flour, six pounds of bran and six pounds of middlings making forty-eight pounds, and he would keep twelve pounds of toll. In earlier times the miller would toll the wheat and have the farmer wait for the flour from his own wheat. The tolling sometimes created considerable gossip in the community. If the miller's son bought a suit of clothes and was better dressed than the other lads of the community, or his daughter had a more expensive Easter bonnet than the other lassies in the neighborhood, the talk would be that the miller had done some extra tolling. It was like the old story that each time the farmer took grain to the mill, his bags had less grist in them than before and as time went on, it became still less and the last

time he went the miller gave him his empty bags. On the whole, however, it has to be said that these millers were honest and upright and took only what belonged to them.

Some of these old grist mills have been remodeled, furnished with modern machinery, and are today providing the general public with some of the best varieties of their products; others have long since been abandoned and are left standing to crumble and decay. This scene proves to be a painful sight for anyone who has any veneration at all for the old and the once useful. It would be much better to have all these old buildings razed, and whatever of them found useful, disposed at public auction. No doubt many people feel about these old mills as did Joyce Kilmer in his poem about the house with nobody in it. Because these old mills have served a good purpose in their day, they should be kept under roof or entirely removed.

Some of the Old Flour and Grist Mills

The Schnee Mill at Mt. Pleasant Mills

One of these old mills that are still operating is located at Mt. Pleasant Mills, Perry Township. The mill was built by Frederick Steese (1769-1839) in 1800, and several years were required to complete it. He employed Michael Eckbert to dig the mill race, approximately one-half mile long, for which services he received forty acres of land. Nicholas Minium built the stone walls of the mill and Jacob Houseworth did the carpenter work. That the building was originally well constructed is evidenced by the fact that its walls, window frames, door frames, and some of the doors are still in a good state of preservation. Frederick Steese must have been a public-spirited man since he built the first school house at the place on the site of the present one. This school house had two rooms, one for school purposes and the other for church purposes. In 1813 he sold the mill and all of his land to John Schnee of Lebanon County for \$13,333 and the school house was sold for \$200. He then moved to Paxtonville where he built a grist mill, and later moved to Middleburg where he operated a store and served as Middleburg's first postmaster. He then became a resident of Centre County, and in course of time represented that county in the State Legislature (1817-1818).

Mr. John Schnee, followed by his son, owned and operated the mill for many years until the mill property passed into the possession of Joseph Meiser and his son, Reuben Meiser, of Meiserville. Joseph Meiser owned and operated at one time three grist mills on Mahantango Creek, the one at Mt. Pleasant Mills, a second one in the gap between Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mills, and the third one at Meiserville. He also owned at one time practically all of Meiserville, consisting of a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, some dwelling houses, the grist mill, and several farms adjoining the village. He was generous to a fault in providing for the poor and the indigent of the community. It is said that the overseers of the poor had no public charges so long as Joseph Meiser lived in that community. Reuben Meiser sold the mill property to Peter Wendt who in turn sold it to his son, Herbert Wendt. From this time on, the mill property passed in turn to Elmer Troup, William Smith, S. W. Fogle and Son, Charles F. Snyder, and finally to R. E. Schell, the present owner and operator.

Yoder's Mill at Globe Mills in Middlecreek Township

A frame grist mill was built about 1788 on the south side of Middle Creek at Globe Mills. John Reitzman owned this mill from 1814 to 1829. After a number of successive ownerships, the mill became the property of S. H. Yoder who replaced it in 1885 with a three-story brick building. The mill today is in the possession of the J. A. Eichman Estate, and is operated by Lear Eichman and his brother, Mark Eichman.

Woodling's Mill Along the Middle Creek

Among the first traders who came to Middle Creek Valley were two brothers, George and John Woodling. They took out a grant for 500 acres of land along the creek, extending from the location of the present village of Kantz eastward to what is now Selinsgrove. These men built in 1790 a stone grist mill forty-five by sixty feet in size. Since the mill was located at some distance from the creek, a dam and mill race had to be constructed. It was a stupendous undertaking and fraught with great danger since the Indians were still at intervals on the war-path in this section. The ruins of the old mill are still standing along Middle Creek between Kantz and Pawling Station.

The Isle of Que Mills

Located along Penn's Creek in the northern portion of the borough of Selinsgrove was one of the oldest mills in this part of the country, dating back to the beginning of the town. The mill was bought by John Snyder from Peter Weiser in 1785. It appears that a grist mill and a saw mill were erected about 1790 by Simon Snyder and Anthony Selin along Penn's Creek on land purchased by Snyder and Selin from John Snyder and wife, February 23, 1787. Soon afterwards, they built a dam across the creek in the face of great opposition to its construction.



The Isle of Que Flour and Grist Mill

The construction of the dam had been authorized by an act of the legislature to be erected according to certain specifications such as keeping it in good condition and providing a place for rafts, boats, and canoes to pass through. Upon the death of Simon Snyder in 1819, the property passed through different ownerships until about the close of the Civil War when the old building was replaced by a large brick structure, and the saw mill was completely abandoned on account of the decline of the lumbering industry. Pawling and Kreeger owned the mill in 1868. In 1879 George Schnure bought Pawling's and Kreeger's interests in the mill, and took his son, How-

ard D. Schnure, into partnership. George Schnure and Howard D. Schnure owned and operated the mill jointly from 1879 to 1893. Since that time the mill was owned and operated by Howard D. Schnure up to 1903 when he sold it to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The building was removed in 1929.

Miscellaneous Group of Mills

It is impossible to give a complete list of the old grist mills in the territory now known as Snyder County. William Scull's map shows Gabriel's Mill at the mouth of Penn's Creek as early as 1770. A mill existed in Monroe Township on Penn's Creek above Selinsgrove as early as 1766. It was owned and operated by Leonard App, and was known as App's Mill. Later the mill became the property of Franklin J. Schoch and became known as Schoch's Mill. Still later it was known as Herman's Mill and also as Monroe Mills after the township by that name. Moor's grist mill along Middle Creek, practically on the site of the present village of Kantz, was in operation as early as 1795. On the southern bank of the West Mahantango Creek about 150 yards from the Susquehanna Trail, may still be seen the foundation walls and mill race of the Old Weiser Mill. These must have been among the oldest, if not the oldest mills in the county. A mill was operated in Penn Township in 1833 on the west side of Middle Creek, about two and one-half miles south-west of Selinsgrove. This mill became known as Yost's Mill, and later as Hoover's Mill. There were three grist mills in Washington Township in the year 1885. One was located on the Wissahickon Creek in Freeburg and was built by Andrew Straub, the founder of the town. The second mill was located about three miles east of Freebug on the Wissahickon Creek, along the road from Selinsgrove to Freeburg, and was built by Christian Hautz. The third mill was a two-story structure, built on Middle Creek about 1865, and located about three miles east of Freeburg.

There were three grist mills in Jackson Township in the early days. Maurer's Mill was located on Penn's Creek about three miles west of Kratzerville and two miles east of New Berlin. This mill was built by Jacob Maurer about 1805 on the site of an old mill which had been torn down to provide a place for the new mill. This land was purchased in 1796 by Jacob Maurer from a Philadelphia merchant by the name of Henry Drinker. The land was

a part of a larger tract which the proprietors of Pennsylvania had granted in 1767 to Samuel Wallis, who in turn conveyed it to Abdel Jones and Henry Drinker. On the opposite side of the creek, about one-half mile farther up the creek from Maurer's Mill stood Arbogast's Mill. This was a very old mill and probably was built even prior to Maurer's Mill. Benfer's Mill on Penn's Creek was located about one-half mile northeast of Kratzerville and was erected by Christopher Seebold about 1843. This mill later on was owned and operated by Philip Benfer and became known as Benfer's Mill. Still later it was known as Herrold's Mill, and today it is called the Herman and Carl's Mill. These mills on Penn's Creek proved shipping centers for wheat and flour for the eastern markets. The shipments were made by means of large flat-boats or arks on the creek and river. Peter Kuhns was the owner of a grist mill in 1814, located on the west side of the road from Mifflinburg to Middleburg. George Sampsell became the owner in 1823, and the mill continued in the Sampsell family until comparatively recent years.

There were two grist mills in Franklin Township in the early years of the eighteenth century. John Swineford built a log mill in 1776 on the south side of Middle Creek in what is now known as Swineford. In 1812 Frederick Steese replaced this mill by a stone mill. In 1829 the mill became the property of the Honorable George Kremer, and later it became the property of Mrs. Thomas Bower who replaced it in 1881 with a large frame mill. The second mill was erected by Frederick Steese at Paxtonville. In 1829 this mill was sold to Robert Maclay who in turn sold it in 1834 to John Kern. A stone mill was built in 1831 by George Adam Leight at Aline, Perry Township, on Mahantango Creek, about two miles below Shadle's Mill. It was known at one time as Dinger's Mill. About a mile south of this mill was located Meiser's Mill. An old log mill was erected about 1840 by Frederick Meiser, the father of Joseph Meiser, and was replaced about 1882 with a brick structure. It was located opposite the present village of Oriental.

A man by the name of Hassinger built a grist mill on Middle Creek about two miles northeast of Beavertown, and his son carried on the milling business, until his death about 1825. On account of the increase in business, the old mill was enlarged and rebuilt at two different times. About 1825 another grist mill was erected on Swift run, a

tributary of Middle Creek, near the village of Benfer, about two and one-half miles north of Beaver Springs and two miles south of Troxelville. This mill was rebuilt in 1849.

The Middlecreek Flour and Grist Mill is located in Spring Township on the main stream of the Middle Creek, about four miles from its source. The mill is operated mostly by water power. Its history goes back to 1857 when Henry Rauch sold the property to Joseph Haines. Between 1879 and 1907, the mill had a succession of owners. In the latter year it became the property of James W. Klingler. Since 1933, it has been owned and operated by his son, Curvin R. Klingler.

River Markets

During the days of the canal, Selinsgrove was a thriving river port and a great shipping center for various kinds of agricultural products, lumber, and iron ore. It was the market place for most of the people living in the fertile valleys of Middle Creek and Penn's Creek. The building of the canal materially increased its population. As a result, the schoolhouse located on the southwest corner of Second and Walnut Streets, on the Isle of Que, was constructed in 1830 in order to provide school facilities for this increase in the population. The canal brought great prosperity to the Susquehanna River Valley, not alone to Selinsgrove but to most of the river towns along the course of the canal. Before the building of the canal the grains were hauled either to Reading or to Philadelphia on wagons drawn by six to eight horses, or were transported down the river on arks and flatboats. Such a trip by wagon required from a week to two weeks to complete.

While the river could be readily used for transporting cargoes down stream, the return trip became very difficult and often very laborious because of the swift current and the river rapids. To overcome this difficulty a horse and a wagon were frequently loaded on an ark or flatboat in addition to the goods to be taken to the market, and when the cargo was disposed of the craft was sold and the horse and wagon were employed as a simple means of conveyance to return home again. After the building of the canal, the farm products, the lumber from Shade and Jacks Mountains, the iron-ore from the mines at Kreamer, and the pig-iron from the Beaver Furnace were hauled by two, four, and six-horse teams twenty and more miles to a river port to be conveyed by canal boats to the markets in different cities. Upon the delivery of these

products, coal, groceries, hardware, dry-goods, and other commodities were brought back in return.

The large stores, granaries, and warehouses in Selinsgrove were located on the water front. The wagons were weighed on the scales and then the farmers would drive to the warehouses and granaries. It is said that the traffic at times was so heavy that lines of waiting teams would reach from Market Street to the water front. The larger stores employed as many as a dozen clerks to take care of the trade. It becomes quite evident that Selinsgrove must have been the center of extensive business activities. This condition prevailed for about forty years when the business activities began to suffer a severe recession because of the completion of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad in 1871. The railroad had its own stations and shipping centers along its route, thus providing the farmers of the valley with an easier and quicker way to market their goods than transporting them by wagon many miles to a river port. There was probably just as great an exchange of goods, and probably greater than ever, but it was distributed throughout the valley instead of being concentrated at one terminal point.

The Country Huckster

One of the most common means of trading in the long ago was carried on by the country huckster. He came around to the farm house regularly once per week. His business was to collect the produce of the farmers and country stores within a radius of many miles. The means of conveyance was a covered wagon drawn by two horses. Within the covered wagon were all sorts of barrels, boxes, and crates wherein was stored almost every kind of country produce for the city markets. These were butter and eggs, meats, fruits, and maple syrups. Attached to the back end of the huckster wagon was a double-decker chicken crate for the live poultry. The old huckster is a symbol of a day and of events that are now gone forever.

The Country Peddler

Snyder County has always had a decidedly rural population. For the most part, the people lived on farms scattered over the county. Their means of transportation and communication were very limited. There wasn't a ready accessibility to markets so that the people could buy and sell in line with their needs and wants. This

situation accounts for the fact that manufactured articles such as tinware, pins and needles, scissors, buttons, hats, shoes, clocks, clothing, and other articles that didn't lend themselves readily to home manufacture were brought to the people by means of the old-fashioned itinerant merchant or peddler with his bundle strapped on his back or perchance traveling about the country with horse and wagon. This peddler traveled from one farmhouse to another to sell his wares and to report the latest news he had garnered on the way. When evening came, he stopped over night at a farmhouse, and for his lodging, meals, and horse feed he paid with an assortment of merchandise instead of with money.

The peddler was never regarded with much favor, largely because of his persistency to sell his wares, his ever-present bargaining methods, and the frequency of his return calls. The people often mistrusted his honesty about the quality and price of his goods. He proved usually a very good salesman and apparently accumulated considerable money. This was shown by the fact that often he began plying his trade by carrying a bundle, later continued it by horse and wagon, and finally ended in being the owner and proprietor of a large dry-goods store in a large town or city near-by. The peddler, so familiar a figure on the road more than fifty years ago, has now completely disappeared since the farming population became provided with a ready access to stores and markets through the improved means of transportation and communication.

The General Store

The old-time general store played a prominent part in the growth and development of country life. In fact it is difficult to understand how farmers a half-century ago and more could have gotten along without it. The general store was not merely a trading center for the community, but it also served as a social institution. It was a social center in the fact that the people came to the store not alone to buy and sell and get their mail, but also to find out the latest news, to tell their best stories, and to retail the latest gossip. The country store was the choice place for the habitual loafers of the community to congregate in order to keep warm, chew and smoke tobacco, talk about the crops, tell how the pigs were getting along, and decide for whom to vote at the coming election.

The farmer sold whatever he produced and didn't need for himself to the local merchant, and he in turn sold it to a commission merchant, a wholesale house, or a business firm in a nearby city. The local merchant found himself conducting a complete business made up of all kinds of farm products and of a vast and varied assortment of goods and merchandise instead of limiting his business enterprise to a single line. It could not have been otherwise. There were no good roads and motor trucks to facilitate the transportation of farm products to distant markets, and so the farmer brought his products to the nearest trading center. There was no other outlet for his products. In this way the general storekeeper came to buy and to sell practically everything produced and consumed in the local community.

Most of the buying and selling related to the country store was carried on through the system of barter. The farmer brought his butter and eggs, ham and shoulder and bacon (side meat or flitch), his dried fruit such as apples and peaches (schnitz), dried huckleberries, dried cherries, dried elderberries, all kinds of nuts, pelts, furs, and poultry to the store. These things were exchanged for baking syrup, molasses, sugar, salt, cheese, tea, coffee, hats, shirts, spices, coal-oil, tobacco, trousers, dresses, blankets, boots and shoes, and other articles of clothing and household necessities. Comparatively little actual money was handled. When the family members needed suits of clothes, a load of hay was taken to the store in exchange for the suits. A load of hay usually sold for ten dollars which was sufficient to pay for at least two if not three suits of clothes. The price of the other commodities was correspondingly low as judged by modern conditions. The merchant bought lard at six cents a pound, bacon at six cents a pound, shoulder at eight cents a pound, ham at ten cents a pound, live chickens at six cents a pound, live turkey nine to ten cents a pound. While prices were low and producers had little money, a person could buy so much more with the little money he actually had. The storekeeper was practically constrained to buy farm products of all kinds, as well as of all qualities, good and bad, in order to hold his customers, and in disposing of these goods he frequently had to do so at a loss.

Farmers usually made limited purchases. So much of what they consumed they also produced and there wasn't

any real need for extensive purchases. Farmers lived simply and frugally, and there was no felt need for all sorts of varieties of food and clothing. Probably fifty years ago, the merchant had little or no trade in canned goods. This trade has now grown so enormously that hardly a meal can be had today without opening a tin can. Bread and cakes, jellies and preserves were always home-made and were never bought in stores. Many things the merchant sold fifty years ago are no longer sold in stores today, and many things he did not sell are now among his major sales.

The general store contained something of everything that the people needed in the community. The storekeeper received from the people almost anything and everything they produced. The entrance to the store was barred by exhibits of all kinds of things for sale — rakes and shovels, picks and hoes, scythes and grain cradles, harrow teeth and horseshoes, forks and axes, harness and horsecollars. On the inside of the store was found a vast assortment of all kinds of things needed in the home and on the farm such as stockings and shirts, handkerchiefs and suspenders, overalls and neckties, dress goods, ribbons, silks, satins, and laces, large red bandanas, glaring waists, and almost every imaginable sort of underwear for both sexes. There were dry goods and notions of all kinds. The notions included thread, hosiery, shirts, buttons, garter web, hooks and eyes, crochet cotton, and variegated-colored yarns. On the shelves were piled mysterious round boxes containing men's hats, women's hats, and all kinds of dry goods. The old-time country store was truly a museum of all kinds of artificial wonders. It was not uncommon for the country merchant to deal in furniture, stoves, rugs, and carpets, or to carry on a heating and plumbing business. Iron pumps and spouting were sold to the farmers for their houses and barns. Sometimes a millinery department was operated in connection with the store, and with it went an assortment of jewelry. A woman's hat sold at a price ranging from one dollar to twenty dollars. The higher-priced hats had plumes that cost from five to ten dollars. A coal-yard was usually a part of the business of the general store. The soft coal was sold to blacksmiths and threshers and the hard coal for the few farmers for use in their coal stoves during the cold winter months. When people refer to a store today, they usually mean a gro-

cery store or a clothing store, but not so fifty years ago. The old-time general store meant a combination of groceries, dry-goods, furniture, millinery, jewelry, plumbing, hardware, coal-yard, and post office. Usually the country storekeeper was also the postmaster. The income from the fourth class postoffice was rather small since it was determined by the cancellations. When the Rural Free Delivery Service was introduced, fewer people came to the store for their mail and the income of the postmaster was still less lucrative but what was lost in the postoffice income was usually made up in sales of groceries and dry-goods. Those few people who came for their mail usually made some purchases.

Saturday afternoons and evenings were the usual times for farmers to go to markets. In the light of what farmers brought to the store, the country merchant had to be prepared to receive almost every kind of farm product. This made his place of business both a store and a warehouse. There had to be special pens for the live poultry, cool places for the storage of butter, and places to keep the apples and potatoes. The farmers' wives lined the counter with baskets of eggs, butter, and other produce. Often an extra force of clerks was needed to handle the business at such times. One can easily see that the life of the country merchant was a hard one, to say the least. He had to work hard and put in long hours. His store stock had to be replenished continually, the produce of all kinds had to be quickly marketed, and the customers must be kept well pleased. The storeroom had to be regularly cleaned and swept and dusted. Several coal stoves had to be attended to, many coal-oil lamps had to be cared for, and his manifold business interests continually claimed his attention. Many of these general store merchants made considerable money and were prosperous, while some few turned out failures. For the most part, hard work and business sense made the difference between the two classes.

There was a general practice for farmers to have a running account at the store which was settled once or twice per year or a cash system was sometimes carried on. In this case, if the farmer's sales exceeded his purchases, the merchant paid the difference in cash to the farmer or vice versa. As bartering was gradually replaced by huckstering and as the use of the automobile became more common, the cash sales at the store replaced the

credit system. In bartering the buyer always paid for what he got at the store by the produce he brought to the store. The people were probably more honest in those days and were more permanently located on farms in the same community; therefore they were less likely to default payment of a store bill by suddenly disappearing from the community.

The farmer must have wondered many times what the merchant did with all of his meats, butter and eggs, and "schnitz" that he sold to him. In what markets did the merchant sell his produce and other farm products? The answer is that he sold it in the larger towns and cities, for the most part, in close proximity to his place of business. The coal regions like Shamokin, Mt. Carmel, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and even Philadelphia proved good markets for country produce. The produce was shipped both by express and freight. When the produce was sold to a commission merchant, the storekeeper received a check in payment for the produce minus his commission. Monday usually was shipping day when all perishable goods were put on the market. The merchant shipped his butter twice a week in large sugar barrels. A can of ice was placed in the center of the barrel and the butter was placed between the can of ice and the barrel. This need for ice compelled the merchant to go into the ice business. An ice house had to be built as a storage place for the ice for summer use. Men had to be hired in the winter to harvest the ice. In this way the management of a general store really meant big business. The merchant kept his store continually stocked by wholesale purchases of his groceries, dry goods, and notions, either from a travelling salesman or by going in person twice a year to Philadelphia, Baltimore, or New York to "lay in stock" or to "buy in" (eikaufe) his assortment of goods.

The general store flourished in an age of mud roads, horse and buggy transportation, poor communication, small business, country isolation, old-fashioned honesty, and general neighborliness. It declined and practically passed out of existence in an age of good roads, automobiles, telephones, radios, mail order business, refrigeration, and electrification. It prospered when needed and passed out of existence when no longer needed. Today the farmer is likely to huckster his produce himself, take it to the city market, or sell it in bulk to a commercial house instead of taking it to the general store.

These general stores that dotted the country side were in many respects very much alike. A description of one of them serves pretty well as the description of all of them. Each community had one or more of them fifty and more years ago. Among these stores may be mentioned, as representative types, Magee's store at Kreamer; Ulrich's store and Seiler's store at Globe Mills; Witmer's store at Salem; Dauberman's store at Kratzer-ville; Snyder's store at Port Trevorton; Williams' store at Chapman; Rine's store at McKees Half Falls; Milner's store at Kantz; Charles' and Harley's stores at Freeburg; Wittenmyer's, Runkle's and Beaver's stores at Middleburg; Boyer's store at Paxtonville; Wagner's store at McClure; Schoch's, Weis', and Meek's stores in Selinsgrove; and others.

The Banks of the County

The written records of banks of the long ago, consisting of old ledgers, bank statements, various forms of legal transactions, and business correspondence, with their many involved legal phrases are lacking in completeness of details for the full satisfaction of the local historian. The ornamental and precise style of the handwriting as shown in the proceedings of meetings, and the ponderous account books and ledgers in place of fountain pens, typewriters, posting machines, and loose-leaf ledgers set forth in sharp contrast the old and the new ways of carrying on business transaction. One thing appears absolutely certain, and that is that these old records show the profound respect that businessmen must have entertained in their business dealings for one another. They must have been convinced that honesty is the best policy because it is the best policy, that a man's word is as good as his bond, and that business agreements must be regarded as inviolate and were made not to be broken by their participants. The legal documents were executed in due form, and, as would be expected, were often signed by a mark or by a thumb print in place of a signature. In the phraseology of these legal papers and the general impression left upon the reader, the evidence of courtesy in human relationships is unmistakable. The business people had faith in God, trusted other human beings, worked hard, and prospered, not alone in their private fortunes but also in the growth of the financial institutions with whose responsibility they were charged.

The riches discovered in the crust of the earth, the fertile soil, the bountiful crops, the virgin forests, and an abundance of hard manual labor made it possible for men to amass a fortune in their lifetime. The more populated communities tended to have their proportionate share of men who had managed to accumulate a goodly portion of this world's goods. According to the standard of measurement in their day, they were considered rich people. Such men constituted the foundation of a banking system of this country for the exchange of credit. So long as people lived the simple life and the consumers were for the most part the producers, a system of bartering met their needs, but when life became complex, a medium of exchange had to be employed and money began to play a very important part in most business relations. There was a need for an institution for the safe-keeping of the peoples' money, for loans, for exchanges, and for simplifying and facilitating the transmission of money by drafts or bills of exchange. The handling of large amounts of cash was neither safe nor convenient, and a system of exchange of credit instead became necessary. In 1791 Congress chartered a United States Bank in Philadelphia with capital stock of \$10,000,000, one-half of which was pledged by the National Government. The following year the United States mint was established. Both of these institutions supplied the country with a kind of money, which, unlike that in circulation before, could be used throughout all the states.

The first bank in this section of the State was established at Northumberland in 1831, and it served as the only bank in this part of the Commonwealth for a number of years. At the time, in addition to the United States Bank in Philadelphia, there were only twenty banks in the entire State of Pennsylvania. The increased business activities made possible through the building of the Pennsylvania Canal made necessary the organization of this bank. Prior to the Civil War period, the residents of Snyder County were accustomed to place their money in the Northumberland Bank. Mr. George Schnure, a resident of Selinsgrove, was a director of this bank. It is said that he made periodic trips through the county, collecting the money of the people and taking it to the bank at Northumberland. He traveled about on horseback with a pair of pistols to protect himself, and carried the money in strong leather saddle-bags. The bank eventually was

moved to Sunbury and became the Sunbury National Bank or the First National Bank of Sunbury. At different times there have been at least ten banks in Snyder county; today there are only six banks, the others either have been discontinued or have become merged with the existing banks.

The First National Bank of Selinsgrove

The First National Bank of Selinsgrove was the first bank chartered in Snyder County. On January 1, 1864, a group of men from the county met in a public building (now the residence of Attorney Joseph Ingham) and drew up a written agreement under the provisions of the Act of Congress, February 25, 1863, to found a bank in Selinsgrove. Nine men were chosen to constitute the board of directors. On January 18, 1864, a second meeting was held and George Schnure was chosen president; Calvin B. North of McAllisterville, cashier; and B. Frank Gregory of Selinsgrove, teller. On April 5, 1864, a certificate was received from the Controller of the Currency at Washington, D. C., authorizing the institution as the First National Bank of Selinsgrove to open for business. The first banking house was located on Market Street on the third lot above Walnut Street, where the Styer Upholstering business is now located. After two years, the bank was moved to the next lot to the north where a fine brick building had been erected to house the bank and to serve as a home for the cashier. This building was razed in 1925 and the present structure was erected and was opened for business the following year. George Schnure served as the president for twenty-five years (1864-1889) when in 1889 he was succeeded by James K. Davis who served five years (1889-1894), Howard D. Schnure (son of the first president of the bank) served as the president for twenty-four years (1894-1918), then Roscoe C. North became the president and served until his death in 1942 when he was succeeded by Marion S. Schoch (grandson of the first president). Marion S. Schoch served until his death in 1946, when Frank A. Eyer succeeded him. Dr. Russell W. Johnston is the vice president. When Roscoe C. North was transferred from the cashiership to the bank presidency, Charles C. Walter became the cashier, and when he resigned in 1938, he was succeeded by Clayton E. Leach as cashier with Agnes G. Bogar and Charles Arbogast as assistant cashiers. Laird S. Gember-

ling, Esq., is the attorney for the bank. The resources of the bank in 1947 were \$2,655,808.85, and the capital stock \$125,000.

The First National Bank of Middleburg

The second national bank to be chartered in the county was The First National Bank of Middleburg. It was organized in 1889 by Jerome N. Thompson, Mexico, Juniata County, with G. Alfred Schoch as the first president, and the founder as the first cashier. James G. Thompson succeeded his brother as cashier in 1902 and served in that capacity until 1917, when, upon the death of G. Alfred Schoch, he was elected to the presidency. During his last illness, he was elevated to the chairmanship of the Board of Directors. At that time his son, James G. Thompson, Jr., became president, a position he holds at the present time.

The First National Bank of Middleburg opened its doors for business on December 2, 1889, the first banking room being located in the property now occupied by A. E. Snook. Need for a larger space became apparent, and in 1894 a new building was erected on the present site. In 1922, the quarters were completely remodeled and modern equipment installed. As of June 30, 1948, capital accounts of this bank totaled \$258,950.29 with total resources listed as \$2,563,842.42.

The First National Bank of Beaver Springs

The third national bank in the county was opened in Beaver Springs in 1901. The bank was first housed in a part of the residence of Dr. A. M. Smith until 1911, when the present site was purchased from the late James W. Specht's estate, and remodeled into the present suitable and modern banking house. The first president was C. O. Greenhoe, who served until 1902 when A. A. Ulsh succeeded him and served until his death in 1931. H. G. Manbeck was then elected president and served until 1945 when he resigned on account of ill health and was succeeded by P. J. Herbster. Kemer C. Walter was the first cashier. He resigned in 1907 to become the cashier of the Farmers' National Bank of Selinsgrove, and J. F. Snook succeeded him, and has served in this capacity to the present time. The resources of the bank in 1947 were \$974,737.40, the capital stock \$25,000, and the surplus fund \$40,000. On Tuesday afternoon, August 5, 1947,

the bank was held up and robbed of \$7,824. The robber was apprehended shortly afterwards and was sentenced by the United States Middle District Court to serve twelve years in the North-East Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg.

First National Bank of Swineford

The fourth national bank in the county was organized in 1903. Azariah Kreeger was its founder and first president. John R. Kreeger, son of Azariah Kreeger, was the first cashier, and later succeeded his father as the president. He was succeeded as president of the bank by Harry A. Hummel in 1947. The resources of the bank in 1947 were \$2,091,722.69, and its capital stock was \$50,000. Clarence H. Gelnett is the cashier and Wilmer W. Hackenberg is the assistant cashier.

First National Bank of McClure

The fifth national bank in the county was organized in 1905. Its first president was Ner B. Middleswarth, a grandson of the Honorable Ner Middleswarth. Erman W. P. Benfer was the first cashier, serving until 1925 when he entered the services of the First National Bank of Middleburg. The present cashier is C. F. Wagner. The McClure Bank was subjected to a burglary on the night of November 15, 1926. The vault was broken open and many of the securities were taken. Some of the bonds turned up later in Detroit and in New York, but the burglars were never apprehended. The resources of the bank in 1947 were \$934,399.25 and the capital stock \$25,000.

The Farmers' National Bank of Selinsgrove

The sixth national bank of the county was opened in Selinsgrove in 1907 on the site of the present Taylor Candy Shop. In 1927 the bank was transferred to a modern structure on the southwest corner of West Pine and Market Streets. David Sholley was chosen as the first president. Kemer C. Walter came from Beaver Springs to serve as the first cashier. He resigned in 1931 and was succeeded by Charles Arbogast. In October, 1942, the Snyder County Trust Company bought the deposits, fixtures, and the building of the Farmers' National Bank.

The Snyder County Bank in Selinsgrove

Another bank was established in Selinsgrove in 1869 by the name of the Snyder County Bank. This bank

was a private association, engaged in the business of deposits and discounting until 1874, when it was discontinued.

State Bank at Freeburg

The Freeburg State Bank was chartered in 1912 with a capital stock of \$25,000. William Moyer was its first president and Ralph Taylor the first cashier. In 1933 Mr. Taylor was succeeded by L. Arthur Gingrich who served until 1940. The bank at first was housed in the William Moyer building, but in 1926 it was moved to a fine brick building on the south side of Market Street. In 1930 the bank had a surplus of \$40,000 and nearly a half million dollars on deposit. In 1940 the bank was merged with the Snyder County Trust Company of Selinsgrove. At the time of the merger, the Freeburg Bank had resources amounting to \$380,000.

Snyder County State Bank at Hummels Wharf

In 1925 a second state bank was organized in Snyder County at Hummels Wharf. A proposed project to construct a large power plant in Monroe Township by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company induced a group of men to organize the bank. Simon B. Rhoads was the first cashier. At the time it was merged with the Snyder County Trust Company of Selinsgrove in 1936, the bank had a capital stock of \$50,000 and resources amounting to \$214,644.73. The bank building later was used as a dairy store, today it is occupied by the Hummels Wharf Fire Company.

The Snyder County Trust Company

The Snyder County Trust Company was organized in 1925 and was located in a private dwelling purchased from Mrs. Eva K. Marburger and located near the corner of Market and Pine Streets. Edward R. Wingard served as the first president; Ralph Witmer, cashier of the Allenwood Bank, was the first treasurer, and Rine G. Winey was his assistant. At this time the capital stock of the trust company was \$125,000. Upon the death of President Wingard in 1927, W. D. B. Ainey succeeded him as the president. Dr. John I. Woodruff is the president at the present time.

In December, 1936, the Snyder County Trust Company absorbed the Hummels Wharf Snyder County State

Bank; in February, 1940, it absorbed the Freeburg State Bank, and in October, 1942, it bought the deposits, fixtures, and building of the Selinsgrove Farmers' National Bank. The consolidation of the three banks and of the Snyder County Trust Company gave the Trust Company a total resources of \$2,145,802.11. The Snyder County Trust Company now leads the banks of the county in total resources and stock. Its resources in 1947 were \$4,006,907.38 and the capital and surplus \$332,000.

General Summary of the Banks of the County

Since the organization of the county in 1855 to the present time, there have been in operation in the county at varying periods of time and places, ten different banks. In course of the years, four of these banks became merged with other banks or were discontinued. At the present time, there are now six banks in the county with resources totaling approximately fourteen million dollars. Each of the banks of the county has a Savings Department and pays interest semi-annually on these accounts. Each bank carries a Christmas Savings Account and issues checks on these accounts in the first week of December. During the Great Depression, when many of the banks throughout the nation were compelled to close their doors, all the banks in Snyder County continued to operate. Only once in the history of the county banks have Snyder County Banks closed their doors, and that was done March, 1933, in compliance with the orders of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

CHAPTER 20

The Peoples' Health and the Medical Profession

To preserve health is a moral and religious duty, for health is the basis of all social virtue.

Samuel Johnson

When a person engages in reminiscences over the past two or three generations with respect to the "horse-and-buggy" doctor of these by-gone days, immediately he begins to recall doctors like Edward William Toole of Freeburg, Albert M. Smith of Beaver Springs, and Percival J. Herman of Kratzerville. Men like these who practiced the healing arts lived a life of incalculable usefulness to the people. The great passion of their souls must have been to do what they could to relieve a suffering humanity. These men constantly stood at the beck and call of their constituency, and whenever it came, they responded with a magnanimity of spirit that arouses our finest and best admiration for them. The passion of their souls was to be useful to somebody else. The sacrifice of personal comfort, their willingness to endanger their life and health by uncommon exposures at all hours of the day and night, and the making of numerous professional calls without any prospect of material reward or even the barest thanks were the things which constituted the program of their daily living. They found their greatest satisfaction in service in behalf of others. In a very literal sense of the term, these doctors went about the county doing somebody some good whenever the opportunity afforded itself. Hundreds of people within the confines of the county are willing and able to voice the sentiments of the poet as their own in behalf of these old-time family doctors.

Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of my better days,
None knew thee but to love thee,
None named thee but to praise.

Fitz-Greene Halleck

The knowledge of medicine, the practice of the profession, the performing of major surgical operations, the limited understanding of bodily and mental disorders, and the care and treatment of the sick from fifty to seventy-five years ago stand out in sharp contrast to the practices of the present day. The "horse-and-buggy doctor" of several generations ago was constrained to practice his profession in a very different way from the doctor of today. While he had limited training and had little or no know-

ledge of many ailments, still he practiced his profession with an earnestness and an unselfishness of service that cannot help but arouse our deepest admiration and our highest respect. The factor of personal gain and self-aggrandizement received very little consideration in his life. The thing uppermost in his mind was service in behalf of others for which he received scant remuneration, if any at all, in only too many cases. The country doctor of several generations ago was a public servant in a very real sense of the term, without being on the public pay roll. Too many of his patients took him for granted and were never fully appreciative of his services and sacrifices. It appears to be a weakness of too many people to forget the services of others in their behalf.

The First Resident Physician of this Area

So far as we know, the first mention of a physician in the territory out of which Union and Snyder Counties were formed was in the year 1764. When the officers of the First and Second Battalions of Colonel Bouquet's expedition to Western Pennsylvania for the relief of Forts Ligonier and Pitt returned home, there was a young lieutenant among them by the name of William Plunkett. This man was a physician as well as an army officer. He was a native of Ireland who practiced medicine in this locality as early as 1772, and may be regarded the first resident physician of Northumberland County. For his services he received a grant of land of several hundred acres on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, situated along the river above Chillisquaque Creek. Later he became the President Judge of Northumberland County (1772-1776). He was married to a sister of John Harris, the founder of Harrisburg. One of his daughters was married to Samuel Maclay, Associate Judge of Northumberland County and United States Senator. William Plunkett died in 1791 and is buried in an unmarked grave in the Sunbury Cemetery. As early as 1820, two physicians by the name of Willits and Baskins were practicing medicine in Selinsgrove.

Peter Gahl as a Prominent Herb Doctor

Peter Gahl may be considered the recognized pioneer herb doctor of the Selinsgrove community. He was a French West Indian from St. Domingo who came to the Isle of Que about 1792, and brought with him a prescrip-

tion for the cure of agues, fevers, and chills. He began to practice his art and soon acquired a reputation in the cure of malaria and intermittent fevers. At the time, the Selinsgrove area, and especially the Isle of Que, had many swamps and mosquitoes that caused summer complaints consisting of the ague, chills, and fevers. Because of the prevalence of such complaints among the settlers and even among the Indians, the Indians fled from the community during the summer months, returning only at intervals to cultivate their tobacco and corn.

Peter Gahl came into prominence through his connection with Simon Snyder who lived in Selinsgrove at that time. George Kremer, a nephew of Simon Snyder, came to Selinsgrove from Lancaster County when seventeen years old, and made his home with his uncle. When Simon Snyder was taken ill with malaria, he sent George Kremer to Peter Gahl on the Isle of Que for his concoction to effect a cure. Peter Gahl never made known to anybody just what the ingredients of his medicine were. The physicians of that day were little acquainted with chemistry and hence were unable to determine the full nature of Gahl's medicine. Gahl always kept his medicine in a small earthenware pot, and his instructions were that the patient should take all of it within three days; about one-third of the quantity each day. The first dose was to serve as an emetic; the second was to be a purgative; and the third and final dose was supposed to effect the cure.

When young Kremer arrived at Gahl's home, the supply of medicine had been exhausted and a new supply had to be prepared. Gahl, unsuspectingly, revealed his secret to George Kremer, and Kremer did not forget. It happened this way. The preparation was made under the observant eyes of George Kremer. Kremer carefully noted the method of preparation and found out by diligent inquiry in addition, the names of the different ingredients. In this way the malaria cure became the common remedy of the community. The concoction was composed of one ounce of Peruvian Bark, calomel, and jalap, together with some cinnamon to give the mixture a palatable taste. It is definitely known that Simon Snyder recovered from his malaria, but whether he became well again because of the medicine or in spite of it, may never be known.

The Training of a Doctor Seventy-Five Years Ago

It becomes perfectly obvious that the training of a

doctor three-quarters of a century ago was much more limited than it is today. Seventy-five years ago, a person could gain admission to a medical school upon the presentation of a diploma, a teacher's certificate, or a statement that he was of good character and had studied the fundamental branches of medicine for at least a year under the guidance of a preceptor. Promising young men desiring to prepare themselves for the medical profession were privileged to "read medicine" in the office of some good doctor who was successfully engaged in the practice of medicine. As an illustration, both Dr. A. M. Smith of Beaver Springs and Dr. Percival Herman of Kratzerville read medicine in the office of Dr. Isaac D. Conrad of Beavertown, and then entered a medical school, the former enrolling in the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and the latter in the Detroit Medical College.*

A pre-medical course of study as required at the present was unheard of. The medical course covering a period of two years, together with a final examination upon its completion, constituted the requirements for graduation as a doctor. The method of instruction in the medical school largely took on the nature of lecture work. Clinical work was very meager and was generally given to the entire class with suitable patients brought from time to time from the hospital wards. Laboratory courses of work and study were very much limited indeed. The fees and incidental expenses were low in comparison with the present ones. The tuition for resident students averaged twenty-five dollars, and for non-resident students from forty to fifty dollars per term of six months. The room rent averaged two dollars per week and the boarding one dollar and fifty cents per week. While the doctor's preparation for his profession was much limited, it has to be said that the knowledge of materia medica was just as limited; nevertheless, he was imbued with the desire to render the best service possible in the light of his knowledge. The doctor of these bygone days deserves the best thanks, and the honorariums he received from the patients whose lives he saved and whom he relieved of pain and distress were meager indeed.

The Medical Profession Seventy-Five Years Ago

Many things that are regarded commonplace today

*Much of the data included here was obtained from a paper entitled "The Doctor of Fifty Years Ago, of To-day, and of To-morrow" by Dr. Percival Herman, and read at the meeting of the Snyder County Medical Society.

were unknown to the medical profession from fifty to seventy-five years ago. Vitamins were not yet talked about and the nutritive needs of the human body were not measured in terms of calories. The equipment for the practice of medicine was crude in construction and much limited in kind and number. In fact, there were crude medicines, crude instruments, and crude ideas. Some of these early doctors didn't even possess a thermometer. They estimated the degree of fever of the patient by such unreliable methods as the sense of touch and the pulse rate. The stethoscope was not then generally in use, and the action of the heart and lungs were discerned by placing the ear directly in contact with the patient's chest. The hypodermic needle came into use very slowly because many persons would not submit to its use on themselves or on any of the members of their families. Such a thing as determining the blood pressure of a person and taking x-rays did not come into use until much later. The treatment of diseases by the use of serums, vaccines, toxins, and anti-toxins was unknown until comparatively recently. The anti-septic theory of Lord Lister had not yet been advanced and surgical operations were performed under conditions that would be considered today as positively inexcusable. No one thought of sterilizing surgical instruments and dressings. Surgical gowns, masks, and caps were considered by many not only superfluous but also unnecessarily pretentious. It is said that the surgeon even held the ligatures in his mouth for ready use during an operation. Pus was not thought of as the product of infection; it was described as healthy or unhealthy depending upon its color and odor. Carbolic acid was used in weak solutions to neutralize odors and not because of having any antiseptic values. The great strides made by surgery can be traced directly to the general acceptance of Lister's theory of bacterial infection.

The doctor's prescriptions have greatly changed within the past seventy-five years both in the kind of drugs used and in the way they are used. Years ago medicines were administered mostly as "powders, pills, and potions" instead of in tablets and capsules as of the present day. Pills were seldom sugar-coated and in order to make their use more agreeable, they were enveloped in apple butter, applesauce, jam, or jelly. The family medicine closet usually contained laudanum, niter, pare-

goric, turpentine, liver and kidney pills, and healing salves of many different varieties. All these were thought to cure almost any kind of ailment and often were freely used without any directions from the doctor.

The practice of obstetrics in rural communities especially was mostly in the hands of midwives. The doctor was called only in cases of confinement that presented some difficulty. The midwife as a rule charged no regular fee, but accepted whatever her patient saw fit to give her. The practice of putting drops of argyrol or nitrate of silver solution into the eyes of the new-born babe as a safeguard against possible blindness had not been in use. Blood-letting was still quite extensively practiced. This was done largely because of the popular belief that bleeding would render the blood free from impurities and thus insure the person or animal against illness. The doctor of seventy-five years ago also was somewhat of a dentist, especially when he practiced his profession in a rural community. Dentists in those early days were few in number and far between. At first, teeth were pulled without the application of anesthesia.

Diseases that were so prevalent years ago that they constituted regular epidemics are now of rare occurrence or have disappeared altogether. The contagious and transmissible diseases were markedly more prevalent in those early years. Years ago there were wide-spread epidemics of measles, scarlet fever, yellow fever, typhoid fever, malaria, fever, and the ague, dysentery, tuberculosis, diphtheria, and whooping cough, while at the present time only an occasional sporadic case develops. Appendicitis was an unrecognized disease as such, but nevertheless the same trouble but under another name, took its deadly toll. Peritonitis, prostatitis, diphtheria, and glandular troubles were not at all understood. For a person to be thus afflicted usually meant certain death. Many an unfortunate pioneer settler had to succumb prematurely to diseases for which there seemed to be no remedy. It appears that the doctors of that day were principally occupied with maladies of a bilious and malarial type on the part of the people who lived along the river, the creeks, and in the lowlands, while those people who lived away from streams on the more elevated areas were afflicted with fevers, bronchial troubles, and rheumatism. While some diseases have been practically banished or whose prevalence has been greatly reduced, other diseases such

as Bright's disease, cancer, apoplexy, and cardio-vascular disorders have alarmingly increased in numbers. In other words society appears to have gained greatly in the arrest and decrease of infectious and contagious diseases, but it has lost very much in the increase of the degenerative disorders.

The Hard Life of the Country Doctor

The old horse-and-buggy doctor of the long ago had a very hard life, and many a one never attained the allotted "threescore and ten" because of it. Dr. Percival J. Herman (1851-1936) can be mentioned as a notable exception to the rule. He practiced his profession for forty-four years at Kratzerville and sixteen years at Selinsgrove or a total period of sixty years practically in the same community. The patients were scattered over wide areas especially in the light of the available means of transportation in that day. As an illustration, Drs. S. S. Backus and William H. Backus, father and son, when living at McKees Half Falls, had as their field of medical practice all that territory that extended from Liverpool to Selinsgrove and as far west as Millerstown and Richfield. Doctor Heman's field of practice extended practically over the entire eastern half of Snyder County. These faithful servants of humanity ministered to the needs of the people day and night, exposed themselves to inclement weather, without the needed rest and sleep, and suffered the inconveniences and discomforts of travel over poor roads at all seasons of the year. It is a wonder they were able to endure what they did and live as long as they did.

The country doctor seventy-five years ago utilized different modes of travel to minister to his patients. He traveled on foot, by horseback when roads at certain seasons of the year were impassable, and by sleigh and wheeled vehicles such as the buggy, buckboard, sulky, and gig. Dr. S. S. Backus made his professional calls on horseback with his instruments and medicines in his saddlebags. Travel afforded many difficulties for the country doctor because of road conditions and sudden and unexpected changes in the weather. Sometimes there was a question as to whether a sleigh or a buggy should be used for the trip. Sometimes the sleigh was used to visit the patient but on account of the rapid disappearance of the snow, the return home trip had to be made in a borrowed buggy.

At other times, a snow blizzard made a sudden appearance and it raged hard and long enough to make the doctor snowbound. The use of the automobile and improved roads have completely revolutionized the means of transportation in the way of the saving of time and the expense and comfort of travel. The country doctor with a large practice, spread over a large area, needed two, three or more horses to be used in relays in order to visit his patients. It also meant employment of a hostler to groom and feed the horses, wash and keep in repairs the harness and vehicles, and to do much of the driving for the doctor. The cost of a stable of horses, the wages of the hostler, and the maintenance of the vehicles meant a great expense.

The Unhygienic Ways of Living of the People

Many of the people years ago lived in very unhygienic ways. The need of sanitation and cleanliness for the sake of health was scarcely recognized. House flies and mosquitoes were looked upon as pests and nuisances instead of carriers and breeders of disease. The night air was thought to be poisonous and laden with miasmatic vapors. It was considered dangerous to breathe it during sleeping hours. This explains just why our grandparents and great-grandparents slept with closed windows. The meals for the most part consisted of an unbalanced diet. They consisted too much of the one thing and not enough of the other thing. Of course people had to eat what they had, and they didn't always have what they should have eaten. Disease was accepted as unavoidable and inescapable. The nature of contagion or infection was little understood. Such a thing as quarantine was unheard of. In fact it was considered desirable for children to go through the catalogue of children's diseases. Little or no effort was made to avoid them; in fact, efforts were sometimes put forth for children to get the mumps, chickenpox, and the measles on the assumption that it was better to get them when young than later in life. In fact, it was thought a misfortune when children had attained the age of adolescence without having had the mumps, measles, chickenpox, or the whooping cough. Medical attention was received only in extreme cases. The infantile mortality was high. It was a case of the fittest and the best to survive the rigors of the environment. Typhoid fever, cholera, scarlet fever, and pneumonia took a very heavy

toll. Medical doctors were few in number and far between, and the best were not prepared well enough for their work. In fact, some practiced before they had completed their medical course; others never attended a medical school at all. Some few doctors were entirely of the home-grown variety. What they knew about disease, they had gotten by experience and from the reading of such medical books as they had been able to secure. These quite generally resorted to emetics, purgatives, and to blood-letting. As the people understood better the prevention and cure of disease, as sanitation improved, and the doctors became better trained, the health of the people improved correspondingly.

Home Remedies of the Pennsylvania German People*

Home remedies were used and the doctor was summoned only as a last resort. These home cures consisted of teas of balsams, barks, roots, catnip, pennyroyal, sassafras, and herbs of various kinds. Each family in the fall of the year laid in a bountiful supply for the winter. Drugs and herbs were used very extensively, many of them never cured and probably were never intended to cure. Many people employed bear, opossum, raccoon, dog, and pole-cat fats as well as goose-grease for different kinds of ailments. Some people even went so far as to believe in the efficacy of animal dung, fish worms, spiders, and toads as a cure-all. A coal-oil rag fastened about the neck was used to cure sore throat. People frequently resorted to the most peculiar cures for the different ailments. Pennyroyal was used for colds and fevers; catnip for babies with the colic; balsam for stomach troubles; dogwood bark for dysentery; boneset for the grippe; garlic to lower the blood pressure; dandelion for constipation; parsley for the kidneys and bladder; pokeberry for rheumatism; snake root for ailments in general; mulberry leaves were dried and smoked for asthma; horse-radish as a blood cleanser; magnolia leaves for perspiration and sweat; berries soaked in brandy for consumption; charcoal mixed with hog's lard for open sores; cedar tree berries as a tonic for weak backs; wearing a piece of pig leather around the wrist as a preventive of the whooping-cough; sulphur and molasses for colds and croup; the asafoetida bag to ward off all manner of disease; and poultices of mustard and onions were a common household remedy for colds on the

*Aurand, Popular Home Remedies

chest. Grapevine sap was used as a hair tonic. When a barefooted boy tramped in a nail, cured bacon or "speck" was applied to the wound. When liver-grown, the child was made to crawl under the table and around all four legs as well as over the top. Children suffering from emaciation (abnemmede) or a wasting away, had to be passed through the horse-collar. Blood-letting was generally practiced on man and beast to get rid of the impure blood. Whiskey was an old household remedy for almost everything from a snake-bite to pneumonia. When a party went to the mountains for blue-berries, a bottle of whiskey was taken along for snake-bite, but generally when the party returned home, none fortunately had any snake-bite but nevertheless the bottle was empty.

Pow-wowing was in common use seventy-five years ago. It was quite generally accepted as a method of cure of inflammations, fevers, and swellings. Practically every neighborhood had a man or woman reputed to have the gift or power to bring about relief and health by whispering repeatedly some charm or incantation consisting of Bible verses and other materials accompanied by peculiar strokes or passes made with the hands. Some doctors refused to take a case that had any connection with the pow-wow person. Their position was—"If the patient gets well, the pow-wow person gets the praise; if the patient dies, the doctor gets the blame." It ought to be stated that pow-wowing is something different from hexing. "Hexerei" is practiced for the purpose of imposing an affliction upon someone for the sake of revenge or for the purpose of breaking a spell or a charm, and thereby releasing the sufferer from the supposed effects of the spell or the charm. The purpose of pow-wowing is to do good to somebody, and from the standpoint of its intent and purpose, cannot be open to censure. Whatever wrong may be connected with pow-wowing lies in its displacement of medical science by tending to give it first consideration in attempts to effect a cure. On the other hand, whatever value may be attached to it, has to be based on the efficacy of "Faith Cures" that result from the changed mental attitudes of the patient. In the midst of ignorance and confusion of only too many of the population, the hawkers of patent medicines reaped their harvest and the quacks practiced their trade with the greatest gains to themselves.

The Snyder County Medical Society

As early as 1874 a temporary organization of the mem-

bers of the Snyder County medical profession existed under the name of the "Snyder County Medical Society". Of this organization Dr. B. F. Wagenseller was president, Drs. Roswell Rothrock and H. M. Nipple, vice-presidents, and Dr. John Y. Shindel, secretary. It had a constitution and by-laws. In 1877, a permanent organization was effected at a meeting in the Court House. The officers were: president, Dr. Roswell Rothrock; vice-presidents, Drs. H. M. Nipple and J. W. Rockefeller; recording secretary, Dr. John Y. Shindel; treasurer, Dr. J. W. Sheets. The association was composed of twenty-four members, one of whom was a woman, Dr. Elsie Mitman of Freeburg. At a meeting of the association in 1878 a fee bill regulating the charges for medical services was adopted. At some of these earlier meetings, much spirited discussion centered in the efficacy of pow-wowing as an healing art, the cause of malaria, the advisability of bleeding patients, and the proper use of calomel.

In April, 1931, the Snyder County Medical Society dissolved itself and its members became affiliated with other County Medical Associations nearest to their places of residences. This action was taken at the expressed wish of the State Medical Society. The physicians who were members of the local organizations at that time were: George M. Bogar, E. R. Decker, Percival J. Herman, A. Jerome Herman, R. W. Johnston, Chester A. Marsh, Howard F. Straub, M. E. Wagner, and P. E. Whiffen.

The Doctors in the County Years Ago

A list of the pioneers in the practice of the medical profession in the early years of the history of the county is given below. These are the men who by their sacrifices and unselfish service made possible better sanitation, a better understanding of the principles of hygiene, a healthier population, and a longer and more useful life for many of the citizens. These doctors rendered a type of service to the rich and poor alike, for which in only too many cases, they never received the due reward for their labors. Man seems so forgetful of his benefactors and is often ignorantly ungrateful for the unselfish service of others. It must be said to the everlasting credit of these doctors that they gave their best to the community they served without thought of material reward or overt recognition of their services. To them the practice of their pro-

fession constituted an ideal of service to humanity rather than that of personal profit.

It is not the purpose to enumerate all the doctors who have practiced medicine within the county. Some of them served in the county only for a brief time and then moved elsewhere. The list incorporated here includes those physicians who by length of service became an integral part of the life of the county. Many of these names stand out clearly in the memories of many people now living. Among these physicians located in Freeburg must be mentioned Dr. J. C. Schaeffer (the son-in-law of Frederick C. Moyer), Dr. Elsie Mitman, and Dr. Edward W. Toole. Those located at Middleburg were Dr. John Bibighaus, Dr. Thomas J. Bibighaus (son of Dr. John Bibighaus), Dr. John Y. Shindel, and Dr. A. Jerome Herman, and Dr. G. E. Hassinger; those located at Selinsgrove were Dr. Jacob Wagenseller, Dr. Peter R. Wagenseller (son of Dr. Jacob Wagenseller), Dr. Benjamin F. Wagenseller, Dr. Franklin J. Wagenseller, Dr. H. M. Nipple, Dr. John W. Sheets, Dr. P. A. Boyer, and Dr. Agnes Sholley Knights; those located at Shamokin Dam were Dr. Isaac Hottenstein and Dr. H. P. Hottenstein; located at Kratzerville was Dr. Percival J. Herman; located at Kreamer was Dr. J. W. Seip; located at Centreville were Dr. J. F. Kanawell and Dr. J. W. Sampsel; located at Beavertown was Dr. J. T. Strohecker; located at Adamsburg were Dr. A. M. Smith, Dr. J. C. Wagner, and Dr. H. J. Smith; located at McClure was Dr. Roswell Rothrock; located at McKees Half Falls were Dr. S. S. Backus, Dr. W. H. Backus, and Dr. George B. Weiser; and located at Fremont was Dr. Marand Rothrock, a son of Dr. Roswell Rothrock of McClure; and located at Port Trevorton was Dr. J. W. Sheets, who later located in Selinsgrove.

Biographical Sketches of Representative

Horse-and-Buggy Doctors

Dr. J. W. Deckard

Dr. J. W. Deckard, a practicing physician of Richfield, Pennsylvania, for fifty-two years, is a typical example of the horse-and-buggy doctor. His practice covered the south-western portion of Snyder County, the eastern end of Juniata County, and the northern portion of Perry County. His practice was very large and difficult, frequently requiring all of his time, day and night, and at all seasons of the year. He always kept four to five horses to take care of his road calls, especially during the winter season of the year. Frequently, during the winter months the roads were sometimes so badly drifted that he was compelled to travel through fields. At certain times he employed a farmer with two horses and a large sled to aid him in making many of the most necessary sick calls. In the early spring, when deep mud made the dirt roads well-nigh impassable for vehicles, Dr. Deckard traveled on horse-back in visiting his patients. Office hours could not be kept with the result that many office patients were required to wait for an entire half-day, and even longer, until his return from his calls. Meals, sleep, and rest periods were very irregular and usually at prolonged intervals. Such was the hard life of a country doctor before the days of good roads and automobiles.

Dr. Deckard was born December 27, 1851, in Howe Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of David and Barbara Stentz Deckard. Dr. Deckard was married to Emma Wills of Cincinnati, Ohio. To this union were born four children, two of whom died in infancy. A third child is Dr. Percy E. Deckard of New York, and the fourth one is Oscar D. Deckard, the president of the Richfield Bank. In his boyhood days, Dr. Deckard attended the schools of Howe Township and the Juniata Valley Normal School at Millerstown, Perry County, conducted by Professor Silas Wright, later County Superintendent of Schools of Perry County. Dr. Deckard taught school for four winter terms in Buffalo and Howe Townships. During the summer months he read medicine with Dr. Samuel Stites of Millerstown. He was graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, now the School of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati. He began the practice of medicine in Richfield and continued in active practice there until his death April 14, 1926, at the age of seventy-four years. As was the custom of doctors at the time, he operated a drugstore in Richfield from 1878 until his death in 1926.

In the midst of a busy life, he still found time to participate in the life of the community. He served as school director for thirty-two years, for eight years was postmaster, was coroner of Juniata County for several terms, was a member of the Pension Board of Medical Examiners, a member of the County, State, and American Medical Associations, and medical inspector of schools for the eastern portion of Juniata County. He was an organizer of the Richfield Bank, and a director of the bank until his death. Dr. Deckard was a member of the Richfield Lutheran Church.

Dr. Percival Herman

Dr. Percival Herman was born September 13, 1851, the oldest of a family of eleven children. His father was a farmer and blacksmith. He attended the common schools of his native community. He began

to teach the same school in Jackson Township at the age of seventeen that he had attended as a pupil the year preceding. There was a need for a teacher, and the directors of the district selected one of the pupils who was the oldest and the most advanced in his studies to be the teacher. He taught one term each in the Beavertown Schools and the Salem School in Penn Township. He also taught at Williamstown, Dauphin County. In all he taught six terms in the schools of Snyder and Dauphin Counties. He attended the Missionary Institute in the year 1869-1870. While teaching school at Beavertown, he decided to become a doctor and began to read medicine in the office of Dr. Isaac Conrad of that place. In the fall of 1873 he enrolled in the Detroit Medical College and continued his studies there until 1874. The main reason for his choosing a "western college," as he himself stated was the low tuition and his own lack of means to meet the larger expenditures of an "eastern school". In September, 1875, he enrolled in the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery and received the M. D. degree in 1876.

Dr. Herman practiced medicine and surgery in his native county for sixty years, for forty-five years (1876-1921) at Kratzerville and for fifteen years (1921-1936) in Selinsgrove. At the time of his death, July 15, 1936, he was the oldest medical practitioner in Snyder County. During his residence in Selinsgrove, he was a very familiar figure on the streets. His characteristic demeanor, almost always on the run in going to and returning from his office on Market Street, the ever-present flower in the buttonhole of his coat, the medicine case in his hand, and a pleasant greeting for everybody he met will cause him to be long remembered as a resident of Selinsgrove. He served as coroner of Snyder County for one term (1881-1883). He was very active in promoting the program of the State Health Department in the local communities. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers National Bank of Selinsgrove in 1907. As a Bank Director, president, and vice-president he rendered a long period of service. He was a charter member of the Snyder County Medical Society of which organization he served as the president, secretary, and treasurer at various times. He was exceedingly active in the practice of his profession until the autumn of 1935 when an illness compelled him to go into involuntary retirement.

Dr. Marand Rothrock

Dr. Marand Rothrock richly deserves to be known as a prominent physician in the county during the horse-and-buggy days. He was the son of Dr. Roswell Rothrock, formerly residing in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, but later having his residence in Bannerville, Snyder County, Pennsylvania. Dr. Rothrock belonged to a family of physicians over a period of four generations. His grandfather, Dr. Isaac Rothrock, practiced medicine at Middleburg and Adamsburg for forty-five years. His father (1831-1897) practiced medicine for forty-eight years, chiefly in Snyder County. His brother, Dr. David R. Rothrock, practiced medicine for forty-four years in Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties, and a nephew, Dr. Walter R. Rothrock of Milton practiced for fourteen years. Dr. Rothrock was born at New Bethlehem, Clarion County, May 12, 1854, the oldest of five children. He attended the public schools of West Beaver Township, Snyder County. In 1873 he became affiliated with the Black Oak Ridge Lutheran Church in West Beaver Township. He received his medical education in the Maryland College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, and was graduated with the M. D. degree in 1881 in the same class with Dr. Edward William Toole of Freeburg.

During the year of his graduation from the medical school, he was married to Alice M. Shadle of Mt. Pleasant Mills by the Rev. Jacob

F. Wampole. Dr. and Mrs. Rothrock were the parents of two children, a son, Roswell John (1883-1927), and a daughter, Mary Catherine, married to the Rev. Calvin P. Swank, D.D., of Philadelphia. Dr. Rothrock began his medical practice at Mt. Pleasant Mills in the same year that his classmate, Dr. Toole, began his medical practice in Freeburg. In addition to his work as a medical practitioner, he served as the secretary of the Snyder County Medical Society for a period of years, the health officer of Perry Township, and the county coroner from 1891 to 1897. He was actively interested in schools, the church, and in fraternal and social welfare organizations. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Freeburg State Bank and of the Beavertown Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Mt. Pleasant Mills.

In the discharge of his duties as a practicing physician for forty-seven years, he put up with many hardships and with some serious bodily injuries through accidents that left him lame for the remainder of his life. He gave his medical services unstintingly, often in times of great peril and during the most inclement weather that with the passing years slowly sapped his very life stream. Day and night, at all seasons of the year, and in the storm and cold of zero weather, he ministered to the needs of his patients in their suffering and pain, with none of the scientific aids provided by the modern hospital, and often with little or no material rewards except the satisfactions afforded in making life a little better for his fellow citizens.

Dr. Rothrock served a community with horse and buggy and sleigh within a radius of fifteen miles and even beyond. This covered territory included portions of Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, and Snyder Counties. He had three horses that took their turns on his professional trips. In the winter when the roads were snowy he traveled in a sleigh, always carrying a shovel and other equipment with him. Sometimes two men accompanied him to shovel snow drifts and to take down fences to make passage possible. The practice of medicine was generally considered serious business, and particularly because of his lameness, Dr. Rothrock had no difficulty to persuade neighbors to accompany him on the darkest and coldest nights to assist him in every way on his trips. He frequently returned home drenched to the skin. A common sight in his home was blankets and clothing hung in the kitchen to dry. It is said that the back of his buggy was always filled with medicine. When he attended the Grubb's Sunday School picnic, he always took an extra supply of medicine along. People came from great distances to see him and to receive his medicine.

He had his own drugstore, as was the common practice among the doctors in that day, in which they dispensed their own medicine. Such a thing as writing prescriptions was unheard of. Dr. Rothrock practiced surgery to some extent, with, and many times without, the assistance of another physician. He had a great reputation for ability to treat cases of dropsy, and for this reason, he was asked to attend cases at great distances. It is said that he had no office hours. He was always subject to call. Frequently, patients would come and wait his return from a trip, sometimes staying for meals and even over-night. He treated his patients as members of his own family. The lantern for hitching the horse was always kept lighted at night. At times he was even called upon to provide medicines for farm animals by the farmers of the community.

Dr. Rothrock died on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1929, at his home at Mt. Pleasant Mills of old age, aggravated by the various injuries he had sustained in his medical practice, from which he had never fully recovered. He was buried in the Union Cemetery of the St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Church at Mt. Pleasant Mills.

Dr. James W. Sampsell

Dr. James W. Sampsell was a country doctor for fifty-six years, and held Penns Creek as his place of residence during all these years. He was the oldest of three children of Hopnia and Anna Shinkel Sampsell. He was born near the village of Penns Creek March 22, 1852, and died February 28, 1934, from the effects of a paralytic stroke. He first attended the schools of the neighborhood. At the age of seventeen he attended the Freeburg Academy, after which he taught school for four winter terms and then was engaged in the milling business. Not finding that occupation conducive to his health, he decided to study medicine. He studied at the University of Pennsylvania for two years to prepare himself for the Medical School. He began the study of medicine in 1875, and was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in 1878. He was active in politics and business in addition to his practice of medicine. He served two terms in the General Assembly (1914-1918). In 1887 he established a drugstore in Penns Creek in connection with his medical practice. Dr. Sampsell served as a school director for a number of years and also was on the Board of Pension Examiners.

Dr. Albert M. Smith

Dr. Albert M. Smith of Beaver Springs was a successful medical practitioner, and enterprising business man, and a politician of merit. As a business man, he was interested in the iron-ore industry at Adamsburg (Beaver Springs) and in a tannery at the same place. He was the oldest son of John S. Smith and Martha Middleswarth Smith. Martha Middleswarth was the daughter of the Honorable Ner Middleswarth. Dr. A. M. Smith was born February 25, 1846, and spent the early years of his life on the farm. He first attended the Riegel's rural school of Adams Township, and then at the age of eleven, he enrolled at Union Seminary, New Berlin, Pennsylvania. He became a school teacher at Port Ann, Beaver Township, later Adams Township, before he was seventeen years old. On February 26, 1864, when but eighteen years old, he enlisted in Company I, 49th Regiment, P. V. I., and served until the close of the war. He took part in the Battle of the Wilderness and the Siege of Petersburg. In September, 1864, he participated in the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley between Sheridan and Early in which were fought the Battles of Winchester and Cedar Creek. In the spring of 1865, he was engaged in the fighting around Richmond and was present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court-House April 9, 1865. He was promoted to the rank of corporal March 1, 1865, and was wounded April 2, 1865. He was mustered out of service with his company July 15, 1865.

Upon his return home from the war, he entered Missionary Institute and was graduated in 1868. He began the reading of medicine with Dr. Isaac B. Conrad of Beavertown. In 1870 he was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He began the practice of his profession at Beaver Springs and continued there until his death in 1909. He was a physician and surgeon for the Lewistown Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for eighteen years; he served as the president of the Snyder County Medical Society for five years; he was vice-president and director of the Beavertown Mutual Fire Insurance Company; he was the commander of the Major William H. Byers' Post and the pension examiner for Snyder County. He served two terms in the General Assembly (1898-1902). He practiced medicine for thirty-nine years (1870-1909). He was critically ill for sometime prior to his death. He died at Beaver Springs November 22, 1909, and is buried in the Beaver Springs Cemetery.

Dr. Edward William Toole

Dr. Edward William Toole was born on Staten Island, New York, June 28, 1851. His parents were of Irish nationality, poor but honest and hard-working. Dr. Toole attended the public schools of his native place until he was twelve years old, when he lost both of his parents. He then went to live with an uncle in Wilkes-Barre where he worked in the mines as a driver and slate picker. At the age of fifteen, he came to Union Township, Snyder County, where he engaged in various types of labor to earn a livelihood. At one time he was a towpath boy on the canal. In 1869 he made his home with William G. Herrold, Port Trevorton, Pennsylvania, and remained there until Herrold's death in 1880. William G. Herrold sent young Toole to Missionary Institute and later to the Normal School to prepare himself for teaching. He taught school for five years. He began the study of medicine with Dr. J. W. Sheets, a practicing physician at Port Trevorton. Later he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, and was graduated with the medical degree in 1881. He began the practice of his profession in Freeburg. He practiced medicine in Snyder County for forty-four years. He died March 13, 1926, after a prolonged illness. Dr. Toole belonged to a group of physicians that rightfully may be called "The Old Family Doctors".

While busy as a medical practitioner, Dr. Toole still found some time to do many other things. He was elected coroner of Snyder County in 1883. In 1890 he was elected a member of the General Assembly and was re-elected in 1892. Dr. Toole was the originator and co-author of the free text-book law of Pennsylvania. The bill was brought before the House of Representatives by Dr. Toole in collaboration with John Farr, the House member of Luzerne County. There was great opposition to the measure by the book companies and by other organizations and individuals. Since Dr. Toole began life as a poor boy, he knew first-hand what a lack of money to buy the necessary books and supplies for school purposes meant to a poor family. No wonder he remarked at one time:

"If I ever get an opportunity to make school books free for the children of the State, I am going to do it."

It must have been indeed gratifying to Dr. Toole to have had this opportunity and to have succeeded in realizing his great wish. The text-book law of 1885 was simply permissive legislation with respect to the purchase of text-books and supplies by the school directors for the school children out of the funds of the school district, and to furnish them free of cost for use by the pupils in the schools. The law of 1893 made it mandatory. The free text-book law was signed May 18, 1893, by Governor Robert E. Pattison.

CHAPTER 21

The County Courts and the Legal Profession

Obedience to law is liberty. Liberty without obedience is confusion, and obedience without liberty is slavery.

William Penn

The County Courts

A system of county courts was organized at an early date in the Pennsylvania Colony. The right to organize the judiciary was granted by Charles II of England to William Penn, and Penn in turn transferred the right to the several counties of the colony. The courts established were the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Quarter Sessions. The Provincial Judiciary Act March 22, 1722, established in each county such courts. The Orphans' Court had already been established in 1713. All the courts were presided over by one or more judges and provisions were made for appeals to the higher courts. The seat of government of the colony at the time was Philadelphia.

The Provincial Government commissioned eleven justices to preside over these county courts. These justices were not required by the law to be learned in law until the adoption of the Constitution of 1790. These eleven justices chose one of their number to serve as the president judge. At first it may seem strange that not one of these justices had to be learned in the law. There are reasons for such a situation. Men trained in the law were few and far between in the early years of the colony. Like almost everything else, the machinery of government was yet very simple and original and the need for highly trained men in the law and the judiciary was not at all imperative. What the primitive wilderness life probably needed more than anything else at the time were justices who were able to think clearly and correctly, who possessed an abundance of good common sense, and who had deep-seated convictions about the rightness and the wrongness of human relationships, rather than technically trained barristers who only too frequently tended to become highly legally involved in the formalities and the technicalities of a controversial issue in making their decisions. What the society of the day actually demanded in cases of litigation was a settlement on the basis of what was considered right and fair by the common man for all parties concerned. The pioneer settlers with very little formal education, if

any at all, nevertheless possessed an innate sense of justice and fair-play that they would have gotten very little satisfaction out of court decisions based on mere legal technicalities. To their way of thinking that would not have been justice at all. They didn't believe that law covered all cases of justice and injustice, and therefore, were content to have their controversies decided according to their own merits instead of simply by the letter of the law.

With the extension of the settlements into the wilderness, there grew a corresponding need for a larger number of courts of justice. Prior to the formation of Northumberland County March 21, 1772, all civil and criminal cases had to be tried in the courts at Reading, Lancaster, York, or Carlisle. Not only were more courts desirable, but also these courts had to be made more accessible to the settlers. Traveling great distances was practically out of the question in the early days. In frontier life, there arose many questions that called for settlement, and when not settled according to the due process of law, the parties involved were disposed to take the law into their own hands. When Northumberland County was formed in 1772, Sunbury became the seat of justice for this area with a Court of Quarter Sessions, Court of Common Pleas, and an Orphans' Court. It is well to remind the reader that Northumberland County at the time comprised a territory so large that later on at successive periods were formed about twenty-six different counties. Sunbury then became the capital in reality not of just one county but territorially of many counties. The problem of greater proximity and more ready accessibility of courts of justice for the settlers was minimized but not by any means solved. This same problem through the years led to the formation of additional counties and additional courts of justice.

The first session of the court in Northumberland County was held April 9, 1772, at Fort Augusta. The courthouse then stood directly in front of the fort on land that long since has been washed away by the changing course of the river. At the first session of the court, the items of business were the reading of the Act of Assembly creating the new courts, the reading of the commissions of the new justices, and the reading of an order dividing the county into seven townships. In May, 1772, a second session of the court was held. In addition to a large number of criminal cases that had to be disposed of, the court

was asked to determine whether the petitions of the nine residents of the county for a liquor license were of sufficient merit for the court to recommend the petitioners to the Provincial Government as proper persons to be granted a license to dispense liquor.



The Old Court House in Sunbury
Western End of Public Square (Cameron Park)
Built 1795-1798

It ought to be stated that in these early years, the comparatively few lawyers there were at the time were for the most part itinerant legal practitioners traveling on horseback from one court to the next. The province was still too thinly populated for any one lawyer to open a law office at some permanent place and make a living from the business that a comparatively small body of clients might bring to him. In those days it was strictly ethical professionally for a lawyer to go in search of legal business wherever courts of justice happened to be conducted. It is said one of these early lawyers who practiced in the Northumberland County courts was no less a person than James Wilson of York. A few years later he became one of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence and one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The judiciary was successively reorganized from time to time in line with the State Constitutions of 1776, 1790, 1838, and 1873. The constitution of 1776 made provision for all of the above-named courts with practically the same

functions and organizations as prevailed prior to its adoption. The constitution of 1790 made provision for a Supreme Court, a Court of Oyer and Terminer, and General Jail Delivery, as well as for a Court of Common Pleas, Court of Quarter Sessions, Orphans' Court, Justices of the Peace, and a Register's Court for each county. This latter type of court was abolished by the Constitution of 1873. The judges of the Supreme Court were ex-officio Justices of the Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery Courts in the several counties.

The state was divided into judicial districts, and the governor was empowered to appoint the President Judge for each district and assistant judges for each county. The judges learned in the law were appointed for ten years and the associate judges for five years. It appears somewhat strange that these assistant judges were not required to be learned in the law. An incumbent could be removed from office by the governor with the consent of two-thirds of both Houses of the State Legislature. With counties of 40,000 or more inhabitants, each county constituted a judicial district of its own with one or more judges learned in the law. With counties of less population, two or more counties were united into a judicial district with one judge learned in the law for the district and two judges not learned in the law for each county. By the law of 1791 the state was divided into five judicial districts. By an act of the Assembly in 1806, the state was organized into ten districts. The counties of Northumberland, Lycoming, and Luzerne originally constituted the Eighth District. When Union and Columbia Counties were established out of Northumberland County in 1813, these two counties were retained as counties of the Eighth Judicial District together with Northumberland and Lycoming Counties. In 1842 the Twentieth Judicial District was formed comprising the counties of Union, Mifflin, and Huntingdon. Seven years later (1849), Huntingdon County was taken away, thus leaving Union and Mifflin Counties as a judicial district. When Union County was divided in 1855, the Twentieth Judicial District consisted of Union, Snyder and Mifflin Counties. By an Act of the Assembly in 1895, the counties of the Twentieth Judicial District were re-apportioned making Union and Snyder counties together the Seventeenth Judicial District and Mifflin and Huntingdon counties together the Twentieth Judicial District.

The President Judges of the Judicial District

Not much need be said here about the six president judges of the Northumberland County courts from 1772 to the formation of Union County in 1813. To do otherwise would carry us too far afield from our main purpose. A few brief statements are made about each one to show the character of the men. The first judge was William Plunket (1772-1776). Judge Plunket was a medical man by profession and served as a colonel in the French and Indian War. In the administration of criminal justice, he was noted for his extreme severity. The second Judge was Thomas Hewitt (1777-1780). In 1776 he served in the State Legislature and was the first President Judge under the constitution of 1776. The third judge was Frederick Antes (1780-1785). He was the father-in-law of Governor Simon Snyder. The fourth judge was William Montgomery (1785-1791). He served as an officer in the Continental Army. He was a member of the State Legislature in 1779, 1780, 1781, and 1782. In 1791 he was elected to the Senate of Pennsylvania. The fifth judge was Jacob Rush (1791-1806). Judge Rush had the distinction of being the first judge of the Northumberland County courts learned in the law. He served in the Revolutionary War and was a graduate of Princeton University. Later he was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia. He was a brother of Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the State Legislature (1779-1780) and served as Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania beginning with 1784. In 1791 he was appointed President Judge of the Third Judicial District (Northumberland, Northampton, Berks, and Luzerne Counties) as erected by an act of the legislature of April 13, 1791. The sixth judge was Thomas Cooper (1806-1811). He served as the president judge of the Eighth Judicial District (Northumberland, Lycoming, and Luzerne Counties) created by an Act of the Assembly passed February 24, 1806. He was educated at the University of Oxford. He was a member of the Northumberland County Bar. He was a diligent student of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology. It is said that in his rambles over the country side he usually carried with him a hammer and acids to test the composition of rocks. For such behavior, strange and peculiar to the uneducated, he was thought to be impaired in mind. His harshness and severity in the administration of justice made him unpopular and

many members of the bar were opposed to him. He was finally removed from office by the governor, more than two-thirds of the State Legislature concurring. For a complete account of the charges against Cooper, see Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley, pp. 393-396. Judge Cooper became Professor of Chemistry at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and subsequent to this, Professor of Chemistry and President of the College of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

Biographical Sketches of the President Judges of the District (1813-1948)

An account of the President Judges* of the District from the formation of Union County in 1813 to the present time will now be incorporated. This is made necessary because Snyder County was a part of Union County prior to 1855, and since that time has belonged to the same Judicial District. Prior to 1851 all judges were appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth for life or during a period of good behavior. After this date the judges were elected by the people of the district. During this period of nearly one hundred and forty years, ten different judges have presided over the courts of the judicial district. Biographical sketches have been included of each judge to show the character of the man and the extent of his training and experience.

The **first president judge** of the Eighth Judicial District when Union County was organized out of a portion of Northumberland County was Seth Chapman. He had twenty years experience as a lawyer when he was made President Judge of the Eighth District comprising Northumberland, Lycoming, and Luzerne Counties in 1811. He was appointed by Governor Simon Snyder in 1811, probably very largely because of the impression made upon the governor by his manifest legal abilities in a case in which the governor himself was accused of defrauding his brother's orphan children out of some inheritance. The case was first tried in 1810 and terminated when the jury disagreed. There followed a series of trials and appeals, which culminated in 1824 in favor of the defendant from which decision no longer an appeal was made. Judge Chapman presided over the courts for twenty-two years (1811-1833). He was quite generally acknowledged as

*Bell-History of Northumberland County.

an able man but probably disposed to be somewhat dilatory in his habits. It is reported that at one time it took him two and one-half days to try a man for stealing walnuts. Soon other charges were lodged against him such as having ordered the arrest and imprisonment of a man without due process of law, reversing the decisions of justices of the peace, filing a charge different from the one actually given to the jury, and placing erroneous interpretations on certain articles of agreement. There was also great opposition to him based on his lack of ability as a judge, as well as upon his procrastinating and dilatory habits in the disposition of cases. These charges culminated in his impeachment by the House of Representatives in 1826 and the resulting impeachment trial by the State Senate terminated in his acquittal in 1827. The facts of the case appear to show that Judge Chapman was about as efficient as could be expected for the conditions and the times, and that partisan politics had much to do with the bringing of the charges. His enemies proved unrelenting, constantly harrassing him in his judiciary transactions, so that finally he resigned his position on the bench October 10, 1833. Judge Chapman continued to reside at Northumberland until his death in 1835. He is buried in the Northumberland Cemetery.

The **second president judge** of the Eighth Judicial District was Ellis Lewis, a native of York County. He served from 1833 to 1842. In his youth he was apprenticed to a printer in Harrisburg who subjected young Lewis to various indignities so that he ran away to seek employment elsewhere. He continued for sometime as a printer, then became an editor, and finally read law and was admitted to the bar of Dauphin County at the age of twenty-four. He practiced law for a time, was elected to the State Legislature, and in 1832 became the Attorney-General of Pennsylvania in Governor Wolf's administration. In 1833 he was appointed president judge and he served until 1843. He was then appointed president judge of the Second Judicial District comprising Lancaster County and in 1851 was elected to the Supreme Court. He became Chief Justice in 1854 and retired from office upon the expiration of his term in 1858. In 1858 he served on a commission to revise the criminal code of the state. He published a standard work on criminal law. His decisions in the courts were outstanding. No doubt Judge Lewis can be considered one of the ablest legal minds of his day.

The **third president judge** was Abraham Scott Wilson of Mifflin County (1842-1861). He was the first jurist to preside over the Snyder County courts. The judicial district was then known as the Twentieth District and was composed of Union, Mifflin, and Huntingdon Counties. He served as president judge at a time when Snyder was a part of Union County and the judicial district comprised Union and Mifflin Counties. When Snyder was erected out of Union County in 1855, Judge Wilson presided in the new county's court. Judge Wilson had the reputation for honest, impartiality, and unquestioned ability. It is said that he was so fair in his court decisions that the litigants were always satisfied even though they had lost their case. Near the close of his term, he became a victim of a stroke of paralysis which left him disabled. Through the assistance of his faithful wife and members of the bar, who did the writing for him, he was able to finish his term of office. He died in Lewistown December 18, 1864, at the age of sixty-four years.

The **fourth president judge** of the Twentieth Judicial District comprising Union, Snyder, and Mifflin Counties, was Samuel S. Woods of Mifflin County (1861-1871). He was chosen by popular vote over the Honorable Isaac Slenker of New Berlin after a hotly-contested election campaign. He is described as a large man, quick-tempered, honest, loyal, and outspoken in what he believed to be right. He died two years after the expiration of his term of office at his home in Lewistown at the age of fifty-three years. The resolutions of the bar at the time stated, "that he was remarkable for his force of character, keen preception, ready comprehension and strong grasp of the facts in litigation, and in this more than ordinarily gifted".

The **fifth president judge** of the Twentieth Judicial District comprising Union, Snyder, and Mifflin Counties was Joseph Casper Bucher of Lewisburg (1871-1891). Bucher was judge over a period of time well in the memory of many people living today. The writer as a boy knew him and can still image him as to appearance, voice, and characteristic demeanor. Probably no man ever endeared himself so much in the hearts and minds of the people of Union and Snyder Counties generally as did Judge Bucher. In short, the people, irrespective of creed and class, simply idolized him. At the time of his election

as judge he was but thirty-six years old and had practiced law for thirteen years.

Judge Bucher was born in Middletown, Maryland, in 1836. His father was a minister of the German Reformed Church serving pastorates at Reading in 1855 with high honors. After graduation, he served as the principal of an academy in Maryland, and then began the study of law in the office of the Honorable Isaac Slenker, New Berlin, Pennsylvania. He was admitted to the Union County Bar in 1859. In 1859 he was elected District Attorney of Union County on the Democratic Party ticket despite the fact that the county was Republican by a large majority. In 1871 he was elected President Judge of the Twentieth Judicial District, and was again re-elected in 1881 by a decisive majority of 2,239 votes over J. Merrill Linn, carrying all three counties of the district. Judge Bucher is rated one of the best judges this district ever had, as well as one of the best remembered. He was defeated in 1891 for re-election by Harold M. McClure, very largely for the reason that a third term was very unpopular with the voters generally. He resumed the practice of law and continued it for twelve years. He died October 22, 1908.

The **sixth president judge** of the Seventeenth Judicial District comprising Union and Snyder Counties was Harold M. McClure of Lewisburg (1891-1911). Judge McClure was born in Lewisburg, August 8, 1859. He was graduated from Bucknell University in 1877. He studied law and was admitted to the bar. In 1891 he became the candidate for President Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District against the Honorable J. C. Bucher who was a candidate for the third term. McClure was elected in 1891 and was re-elected in 1901, serving twenty years. In 1911 he was defeated for the third term on practically the same issue that defeated Judge Bucher in 1891. Judge McClure was prominently identified with the public utilities of the county such as the Selinsgrove Water Works, the Middlecreek Valley Telephone Company, and the Buffalo Valley Telephone Company. He died March 1, 1919.

The **seventh president judge** of the Seventeenth Judicial District was Albert William Johnson of Lewisburg (1911-1921). He was born in Weikert, Union County, Pennsylvania, November 28, 1872. He was graduated from Bucknell University in 1896. He taught in the public schools of his native county for a period of five years.

In 1898 he was admitted to the bar, and in 1901-1902 served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was elected President Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District in 1911 and served one term. He became United States District Judge of the Middle District of Pennsylvania in 1925 and continued in office until his resignation in 1945.

The **eighth president judge** of the Seventeenth Judicial District was Miles I. Potter of Middleburg. He was the first president judge of the district who came from Snyder County. Judge Potter was born in Wayne Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1865. He read law in the office of his brother, Attorney A. W. Potter, of Selinsgrove. He was admitted to the Snyder County Bar in 1895, and began the practice of law in Middleburg. He served as the District Attorney of Snyder County for three successive terms. In 1921 he was elected president judge with a plurality of 4,043 votes over his competitor, Attorney Andrew Leiser of Lewisburg.

The **ninth president judge** of the Seventeenth Judicial District was Curtis C. Leshner of Lewisburg. He was born in Buffalo Township, Union County, Pennsylvania, August 17, 1881. He was graduated from Bucknell University in 1904. He read law in the office of Colonel William R. Follmer of Lewisburg. He was admitted to the Union County Bar in 1910. In 1915 he was elected District Attorney of Union County and served four successive terms. In 1931 he was the Democratic candidate for President Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District and was elected over Miller A. Johnson, the Republican candidate. He died July 5, 1941, about one-half year short of having completed his term of ten years. Governor Arthur H. James appointed Attorney Cloyd Steininger of Lewisburg to fill the unexpired term.

The **tenth president judge** of the Seventeenth Judicial District is A. Francis Gilbert of Middleburg. Judge Gilbert was born in Jackson Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1876. He was graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1898. He read law in his father's office and was admitted to the bar in 1901. He was appointed County Solicitor in 1903 and served six terms. He practiced his profession for over forty years. In 1941 he was elected president judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District. He was the second president judge of the district to come from Snyder County.

The Nature of Court Trials

A descriptive account of a day in court a hundred and more years ago reminds a person very much of a day in court as observed by an eye witness at the present time. The court trials in these early days must have been substantially similar to court trials of the present day. Certain social institutions like the judiciary do not readily subject themselves to fundamental changes. They go with the coming years with only such modifications as are indispensable with the changing order of things. In the first court trial at Mifflinburg in 1813, information is given about the court-crier and his quaint way of opening the court, the tip-staff thumping the floor as a signal for silence, the reading of the commissions of the newly chosen officers of the county, the administering of the oath of office, the calling of the twenty-four men of the Grand Jury, the paneling of the Petit and Traverse juries, and the resumption of the regular judicial business. Lawyers and judges were fond of using snuff and the snuff-box was an ever present utensil in the courtroom. The conditions of the times provided an abundance of business for the several courts. The territory of the judicial district was large, the offenders of the law numerous, and the court procedures often much delayed.

The Severity of the Penalties Years Ago

If we go back one hundred and fifty years to the time when Snyder County was still a part of Northumberland County and the courts were held in Sunbury, we discover that the severity of the penalty meted out to a guilty offender was very much in line with the spirit of the times. It is interesting to note that frequently the mode of punishment for the lesser penal offenses was the whipping post, the stocks, and the pillory, and even mutilations of the body were not uncommon. The whipping post at Sunbury stood on the public square, now the west end of Cameron Park, and consisted of a wooden post planted in the ground having a horizontal crosspiece to which the culprits hands were tied while the sheriff administered the flogging on the bare back. The pillory stood on the river front and consisted of a wooden frame with openings for the head and hands, and a platform for the support of the culprit. It was permissible for the passer-by to throw a stone at the culprit's head. The stocks likewise consisted of a framework with openings for the hands and

fect of the culprit while seated on a platform. It appears that these instruments of punishment were employed from the beginning of the inauguration of courts of justice in Northumberland County. In connection with these public forms of punishment, imprisonment and fine were usually included. The times of these exposures varied and the number of lashes given usually ranged from twenty to thirty in number. No discrimination was made as to sex or color.

Probably the severest punishment of this kind ever administered to a law violator in the early history of Northumberland County was the one given to Joe Disberry August, 1874, upon conviction of a felony. This man has frequently been referred to as the "worst thief" that ever figured in the history of this entire community. Joe Disberry lived in the latter half of the eighteenth century and in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. His place of residence was Penn Township. Nothing is known of his early life previous to his coming to the Susquehanna River Valley, but the supposition is that he was a Connecticut Yankee. We are told that he was a superior person in physical strength, possessed remarkable powers of endurance, excelled in athletic feats such as running, jumping and skating, and that as a thief and a liar, he had no equal. He was humorous in his disposition and thoroughly enjoyed playing pranks on his associates. One of his favorite pranks was to steal into the kitchen of a home at night, prepare for himself a big feast, and then enjoy eating it leisurely. When discovered by members of the household, his fleetness in running usually made it possible for him to escape.

At last his thefts became so numerous that the people generally turned against him, and he was arrested and confined in the Northumberland County Jail at Sunbury. He, however, managed to make his escape but instead of going to distant parts, he returned to his old haunts on the Isle of Que. His hiding place there was revealed in a rather singular fashion. Disberry's inordinate fondness to play practical jokes proved his own undoing here. From this place of concealment where East Walnut Street is located today, he heard the sounds of an approaching horse. Ever curious to find out what it was all about, he emerged from his hiding place only to discover that the person on horseback was Mrs. Henry Antes, the wife of the sheriff of Northumberland County. Consistent with

his nature of constantly playing practical jokes, he stepped into the road, lifted his hat, and made a polite bow to Mrs. Antes, and then disappeared quickly in the thickets. Mrs. Antes immediately spread the report of her discovery. A party of men headed by George Kremer (later Congressman) set out to arrest him. They succeeded in capturing him and remanded him to the Sunbury jail.

Disberry was tried and convicted in the court of felony before a jury of twelve men, among who were Indian fighters and Revolutionary War soldiers. The members of the jury were Peter Hosterman, foreman and a distinguished militia man; Adam Grove and Michael Grove, Indian scouts; George Shaffer, Philip Frick, John Harrison, William Clark, Adam Christ, Robert Irwin, Paul Baldy, John Shaffer, and Alexander McGrady. The docket of the court of Quarter Sessions of Northumberland County at Sunbury for August, 1784, records one of the strangest court sentences and one of the severest penalties in the criminal history of this part of the state. The sentence imposed upon him was:

That the said Joseph Disberry receive 39 lashes between the hours of eight and nine o'clock tomorrow; to stand in the pillory one hour; to have his ears cut off and nailed to the post; to return the property stolen or the value thereof; to remain a prisoner three months; to pay a fine of thirty pounds for the support of the government, and to stand convicted until the fine and fees are paid.

Colonel Henry Antes was the sheriff of Northumberland County at the time. Sheriff Antes was the brother of Catherine Antes, the second wife of Governor Simon Snyder. Whether the sheriff administered the whipping and ear-cropping himself or had it done by a deputy, we are not told.

Joe Disberry survived the terrible ordeal of whipping, standing in the pillory, and mutilation but failed to be deterred from his criminal career. A person would naturally expect that such a drastic sentence would put an end to his evil propensities, but it proved otherwise as we shall presently see. In the May records of the court of Oyer and Terminer for the year 1798, Joe Disberry figured again in a court trial. The court record states:

Joe Disberry of Penn Township was indicted with breaking into the house of Philip Bower in Penn Township, Northumberland County, and taking a coat of value of forty shillings, one pair of trousers of one dollar value; one gun of the value of three pounds; fifteen silver plated teaspoons of value of one dollar; a pint flask valued at a shilling.

In the August records of the court of Oyer and Terminer for 1798, we find that:

Joe Disberry was indicted with entering the house of Peter Jones in the town of Northumberland and taking a box of five silver watches valued at \$120; another box of five silver watches valued at \$100; one gold watch valued at fifty dollars; a box of gold watches valued at \$100; watch chains valued at \$130; watch keys valued at five dollars; a pair of shoes valued at two dollars; some white muslin handkerchiefs valued at one dollar; a shirt valued at two dollars; and a colored coat valued at one dollar.

An indictment was also found against him for robbing the house of Isaiah Willits. On all three indictments, Disberry was tried in court and found guilty. The Honorable Jacob Rush, the President Judge of the Judicial District, presided and pronounced the following sentence upon him:

That the prisoner, Joseph Disberry, forfeit all and singular his goods and chattels, land and tenements, to and for the use of the Commonwealth, and undergo a servitude of seven years for each of the burglaries of the houses of Philip Bower, Peter Jones, and Isaiah Willits, and be committed to the House of Correction and pay the costs of prosecution. That the defendant be conveyed to the gaol and penitentiary house of the city of Philadelphia to undergo the servitude aforesaid for the term of twenty-one years. And that the said Joseph Disberry be kept for the space of two years in the solitary cell out of the term of twenty-one years.

It is said when the judge passed sentence upon him, Disberry listened attentively and then remarked, "Why judge, three times seven are twenty-one", which remark caused the courtroom audience to smile.

Joe Disberry was taken to Philadelphia where he served his long sentence up to the year 1819. He then returned to his old haunts in Penn Township, an old man but as good-natured and jovial as ever. Punishments and penal sentences never succeeded in making an honest man out of Joe Disberry and he continued his thievery until the end of his days. Just when he died and where he was buried, there is no record. It is reported that while attempting to steal flour in a mill in Union County one night, he fell through a hatchway and sustained internal injuries from the effects of which he finally died. The story is told that when the owner of the mill heard of his death, he insisted "that Joe be buried deep or else he would return again to steal his mill, the mill-dam, and all the rest".

These different ways of administering punishment to the evil doer seem strange to people who live in a different age and under different conditions. The primary purpose of punishment was then thought to be retributive rather than corrective. It was generally believed that society had to be avenged. The rehabilitation of the lawbreaker was probably not even thought of by the mass of people. Another judicial procedure that may seem odd to the people of today was the practice of designating the children of indigent, destitute, or otherwise unfortunate parents as indentured servants "to work for their maintenance and support until they had attained the age of maturity when they were given their freedom in addition to a certain sum of money as accumulated wages". During the period of indenture, such children were required to be taught reading, writing, and the English language and to be brought up in the tenets of some religious faith. At the November session of the Orphan's Court of Northumberland County for the year 1786, a case was tried where a certain person had neglected to carry out his obligation to his ward, and therefore, was compelled to do so by order of the court.

The Preparation For the Legal Profession Years Ago

The method of entering the learned professions such as law, medicine, or the ministry fifty years and more ago differed very much from the method in operation today. Law schools, medical colleges, and theological seminaries were not so readily accessible in those days; consequently, many of the candidates had to have provided for them other ways for preparing themselves to become lawyers, doctors, and preachers.

The method usually followed in the long ago was "to read law, medicine, or theology" under the tutelage of some lawyer, physician, or preacher who had attained distinction in his field by his scholarship, ability, and efficiency as a practitioner. The method of "reading law" required that the applicant be registered with some lawyer. This registration was interpreted as merely being a declaration on the part of the student that he was registered for the purpose of preparing himself to become a lawyer. This registration had to be filed in the office of the prothonotary of the county. Under the instruction of the lawyer, the candidate studied the principal textbooks on law such as BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES, CHITTY'S PLEADING, and other standard texts of that

day. At such a time when the applicant was deemed sufficiently proficient in the knowledge and the practice of the law, he was required to undergo an examination administered by members of the local bar association appointed especially for the purpose of determining whether the applicant was competent to practice law. A student of the law under such conditions practically served as a secretary or clerk for his preceptor for a small compensation for the guidance and instruction given him. That this process of preparing one's self for the practice of law was efficient and helpful is abundantly demonstrated by the legal ability portrayed by the large company of eminent barristers who received their legal training in this way.

Today the applicant for law is required to be a graduate of an accredited law school, and must be registered for six months in the office of a practicing attorney and must submit to a state examination conducted by appointees of the American Bar Association. The only exception to such a procedure to become a lawyer is that the President Judge of the County Courts has the power to appoint, according to his discretion, members of the bar who haven't taken the preliminary examination or who otherwise haven't satisfied all the requirements for admission to the bar in the regular way. When a man is admitted to the bar by judicial appointment, his privilege to practice law is limited to the county in which he was appointed.

The Lawyers in the County at the Time of its Formation and Shortly Thereafter

When Snyder County was formed out of Union County in 1855, many of the lawyers continued to maintain their residence in Union County but practiced their profession in the courts of both Union and Snyder Counties. This situation was to be expected since most of them had New Berlin as their place of residence largely because it was the county-seat of the old Union County. Lawyers naturally wanted to reside at the county-seat. Prior to 1856, it is stated that no lawyer lived in Middleburg. Just as soon as the people of Snyder County began to show preference for their own resident lawyers, this situation induced a number of lawyers from other counties to make the newly-organized county their place of residence. The following were the principal lawyers of the county dating back to the period immediately following the formation of

the county. Samuel Alleman, John P. Cronimiller, Charles Merrill, Samuel Weirick, and John H. Arnold—all of whom took up residence at Middleburg; George Hill, Charles Hower, and Anthony C. Simpson took up residence at Selinsgrove; and Solomon Malick and Henry H. Grimm took up residence at Freeburg. All of them proved capable men.

Samuel Alleman (1818-1881) was a native of Lancaster County. By hard labor and many sacrifices, he managed to save enough money to obtain a college education at Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg). He taught school for a number of years, then studied law and was admitted to the Dauphin County Bar. In 1856, when thirty-eight years old, he came to Middleburg. In 1860 he was elected the Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County and served one term. In 1865 he moved to Selinsgrove where he practiced law until his death in 1881. During his residence in Selinsgrove, he occupied the Governor Snyder mansion. In 1864-1865 he served as a member of the House of Representatives, representing the district composed of Snyder, Union, and Lycoming Counties. He introduced the bill for the incorporation of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad Company, and served as the secretary of the company, later known as the Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad Company. He also introduced the bill providing for the immediate removal of the county-seat to Selinsgrove in 1865.

John P. Cronimiller (1826-1885) was a native of Union County. He came to Middleburg in 1856 when thirty years old. He read law with Charles Merrill, and when the latter entered the army, Cronimiller succeeded him in his large law practice. He died at Mifflinburg in 1885.

Charles Merrill (1823-1865) was a native of Union County. He studied law under the tutelage of his father, James Merrill, and was admitted to the bar. He took up his residence in Middleburg in 1856 when but thirty-three years old. He enlisted in the army and died in 1865 at the age of forty-two years.

Samuel Weirick (1808-1869) was a native of Union County. He began the study of law in 1832 and served as the clerk for the county commissioners. He was admitted to the bar in 1834. In 1848-1849 he represented the district of Union and Juniata Counties in the legislature. He took up his residence at Middleburg in 1856 when forty-eight years old. He served in the capacity of solicitor for the county commissioners and continued his law practice until his death in 1869.

John H. Arnold (1837-1902) was a native of Perry County. He was graduated from Jefferson College in 1857. He read law and was admitted to the bar. In 1860 he located in Middleburg. He served as a private in Company D., Second Pennsylvania Regiment. Later he became a member of Company G, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry. He served as District Attorney of Snyder County (1876-1879). He died in Cleveland, Ohio.

George Hill (1821-1904) was a native of Northumberland County. After teaching school for a number of years, he read law under James Pollock of Milton, who afterwards was Governor of Pennsylvania (1855-1858). He moved to Selinsgrove and became the District Attorney of Snyder County. Later on he resided in Sunbury and practiced law in the Northumberland County courts.

Charles Hower (1832-1909) was a native of Northampton County. In 1855, at the age of twenty-three, he came to Selinsgrove from Northumberland County. He taught school for a number of years, then studied law, and was admitted to the bar. As a lawyer, he gained prominence in the Kintzler Murder Trials.

Anthony C. Simpson (1827-1900) was a native of Ontario County in New York. He came to Selinsgrove in 1849. He served as the District Attorney of Snyder County. He was an officer in the Civil War. In addition to his law practice, he was prominently identified with the building of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad, and at one time was the president of the company. Probably more young men read law with him than with any other lawyer in the county.

Solomon Malick (1836-1882) was a native of Northumberland County. He taught school for a number of years. He was the principal of the Selinsgrove High School and served as co-principal of the Freeburg Academy. He studied law and was admitted to the bar. He held Freeburg as his place of residence. In 1861 he moved to Sunbury where he practiced law until his death in 1882.

Henry H. Grimm (1845-1928) was a native of Freeburg. He was educated at the Freeburg Academy and at Missionary Institute. He studied law with Anthony C. Simpson and was admitted to the bar. He served as the District Attorney at the time of the Kintzler Murder Trials.

In fact, prior to the formation of the county in 1855, very few men practicing law in the old Union County resided in the territorial limits of what became Snyder County. This situation was not long to continue after the organization of the new county. By 1857 there were already five lawyers residing at Middleburg, three residing at Selinsgrove, and two in Freeburg. The court practice of these attorneys was very much limited at first because of the persistent tendency of the older residents of the county to continue to be clients of the older and more experienced members of the Old Union County Bar. Much of the court work at Middleburg at first was consequently done by Union County lawyers. As these older lawyers retired, the business of the Snyder County Courts passed more and more into the hands of Snyder County lawyers so that by 1885 they had a monopoly of the legal business of the county.

Other lawyers of the county years ago, in addition to those already mentioned, who lived at Middleburg were Frederick E. Bower, Jacob Gilbert, Thomas J. Smith, and James G. Crouse; among those residing in Selinsgrove were B. F. Houseworth, Jeremiah Snyder, George M. Zeigler, B. T. Parks, Albert W. Potter, William P. Scharf, Charles P. Ulrich, and William E. Houseworth; among those residing at Freeburg may be mentioned James N. Knight, William H. Dill, George A. Botdorf, and Frank A. Glass.

The Snyder County Bar Association

In 1879 the attorneys of Snyder County organized themselves into a Bar Association with Samuel Alleman (1818-1881) as the first president. Alleman was a practicing attorney at the time, residing in Middleburg. In 1860 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools and served one term. L. N. Myers was chosen vice-president. In 1875 he was elected District Attorney of the county and served one term. He represented the county in the State Legislature (1880-1882). Thomas J. Smith served as the Treasurer of the Association. He was a practicing attorney at the county-seat. John H. Arnold was the secretary. He served as the District Attorney of Snyder County (1876-1879).

The County Bar Association usually meets at intervals upon call for the transaction of business peculiar to the legal profession. Such meetings occur about twice a year. The business interests of the association in general pertain to the welfare of the practice of law within the county. Among its particular duties are to determine a uniform system of legal fees for the county, formulate the rules of procedure for the county court which become operative upon confirmation by the president judge, maintain a law library at the county-seat with funds provided by the County Commissioners upon the authorization of the court, and to recommend persons for admittance to the practice of law in the county to the President Judge.

The officers of the County Bar Association in 1947 were Harry S. Coryell, Selinsgrove, president, and Horace W. Vought, Middleburg, secretary.

Noted Court Trials and Law-Suits in the County

The Kintzler Murder Trial

An elderly couple by the name of John and Gretchen Kintzler, natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, residing in Adams Township along Jacks Mountain, near Troxelville, were murdered on the night of December 8, 1877, and their bodies were consumed in their burning dwelling house. The Kintzlers had lived in that community for about twenty years, having come from Lycoming County. They had no children, were generally thought as having considerable money, kept several guns and pistols always loaded, and never allowed people to approach their prop-

erty unless they were well assured of their intent and purpose.

The County Commissioners, Moses Krebs, John Romig, and Joel Row (1877-1880), decided to make a complete investigation of the murder and to bring the perpetrators of the crime to trial and punishment. Among the parties suspected of the crime were Jonathan Moyer, Uriah Moyer, Israel Erb, and Emanuel Ettinger. All four of these men lived in the neighborhood. Attorney Charles Hower of Selinsgrove was approached by the County Commissioners to become the prosecuting attorney. Attorney Hower agreed to undertake the prosecution providing he could have some assurance of the guilt of the suspected parties. After considerable investigation of the case by a detective named William Y. Lyon of Reading, Pennsylvania, and after the examination of witnesses, Attorney Hower consented to take the case. All four of the suspected men were arrested, tried in court, and found guilty of murder in the first degree. Mary Hartley was undoubtedly the outstanding witness in all of the trials. After conviction, Emanuel Ettinger and Uriah Moyer confessed their guilt.

Honorable Joseph C. Bucher was the president judge of the county courts during the trial. The result was that Uriah Moyer and Jonathan Moyer were hanged in the old jailyard in Middleburg. Emanuel Ettinger committed suicide in jail, and the sentence of Israel Erb was commuted by the Board of Pardons to life imprisonment in the penitentiary. These four men were the first and only persons that were convicted of murder in Snyder County during a period of thirty years from 1855-1885. This murder trial received great prominence at the time, very largely because it proved so unusual and so unexpected in a county whose population was decidedly native and apparently given wholly to the peaceful pursuits of life.

Suit for Damages Resulting From the Railroad Accident at Kreamer

One of the most horrible and most disastrous railroad accidents that ever occurred in the county took place early Friday morning at about 3:30 o'clock, January 25, 1895, in the village of Kreamer, located about midway between Selinsgrove and Middleburg. A large sled load of Selinsgrove residents was struck at the railroad crossing at that place by a fast-moving, double-header, west-bound freight

train of thirty-six cars. The sleighing party, composed of fifteen persons, known as the Owl Club of Selinsgrove, had left their homes on the previous afternoon for Middleburg to spend a social evening at the county seat. The jubilant party appeared to have no apprehension whatever, at the time, of the terrible experiences that they would have to undergo before they would return again to their homes. The journey was made in a large sled drawn by four mules. It was when the ill-fated party was returning from Middleburg to Selinsgrove early the next morning that the accident took place.

A number of factors can be considered responsible for the accident. When a sled load of people and a freight train cross each other's paths, each unconscious of the other's whereabouts, it may simply be a question of time as to when they may meet. This constitutes the explanation of the occurrence of the whole appalling affair. The dwelling-house on the corner at the railroad crossing shut off the sight of the approaching train, the jingling of the heavy sleigh-bells drowned out the sound, and all the passengers were wrapped up for protection against the zero weather. Evidently nobody exercised the necessary precaution when crossing the railroad track. A train at that hour of the morning must have been wholly unexpected, and then the unexpected actually did happen. No one evidently heard the whistle of the approaching train, and the first intimation of danger was the penetrating headlight of the locomotive. The engineers declared they whistled for the crossing at the whistling post two hundred and fifty yards away. Whether they did or not may never be definitely known since so much of the testimony along this line proved conflicting and contradictory.

The locomotive struck the front part of the sled near the driver's seat, cut off the four mules, and played havoc with the occupants of the sled. The sled was carried along with the moving train a short distance and undoubtedly in this way most of the persons received their injuries. So great was the speed of the train that it was not brought to a stop until it had traveled about one-half mile from the scene of the accident.

There were fifteen persons in the party exclusive of the owner and the driver of the team, or seventeen persons in all who figured in the accident. The owner and the driver, father and son, were carried some distance

on the pilot of the locomotive and evidently were killed outright. The body of the owner, Isaac D. Romig, was found on the pilot of the locomotive with the back part of his head crushed. The body of the driver, Charles A. Romig, was carried some distance and then dropped on the track, horribly mangled. His body was later recovered from the culvert about three hundred yards from the railroad station. Ten members of the party received injuries, some of them very serious injuries indeed, and only five members escaped without any injuries at all. The station house, the near-by residences of William Gordon and Alvin C. Smith, and the Valley House, the hotel of the village, were turned into temporary hospitals to furnish first-aid and comfort to the injured. Ammon W. Smith, station agent at Selinsgrove and a member of the sleighing party, immediately assumed authority and gave the needed directions. The locomotives were immediately dispatched to Selinsgrove and Middleburg to bring doctors to the scene of the accident as speedily as possible. Tremendously handicapped because of lack of sufficient light and having only improvised preparations, the doctors labored courageously and zealously to do what could be done for the victims.

A brief statement is here included about each of the injured since the accident is still rather vivid in the memory of many people living today. Attorney A. W. Potter was the most seriously injured of all. His right forearm was so badly mangled that it had to be amputated. The left arm also was badly crushed so that for a time there was considerable doubt as to whether it could be saved. He also suffered from a fractured left hip. His daughter, Annie Potter, received a wound in her left leg above the ankle. Mollie Burns was the next most seriously injured. She had her left limb so badly injured that it had to be amputated four inches below the knee. The other limb and left shoulder were badly bruised and both bones were broken in her left forearm. Mrs. Charles P. Ulrich received a broken rib and injuries to the back; Mrs. A. W. Potter suffered from injuries about the face; Mrs. Edward Hummel, from injuries to the legs and back; Edward Hummel, from head, face and scalp wounds; Lot-tie Eby, from bruises of the face and body; Roscoe North, from an injured ankle; and Professor R. N. Hartman, Department of the Natural Sciences of Susquehanna University, from body bruises and injury to the leg. The five

persons who wholly escaped injury were R. Lloyd Schroyer, Mr. and Mrs. Ammon W. Smith, Charles P. Ulrich, and Carrie Hendricks. Three of these persons, Ammon W. Smith, R. Lloyd Schroyer and Charles P. Ulrich managed to get off the sled before the crash came.

A special train brought the dead and the injured to Selinsgrove shortly after eight o'clock on the same morning. Attorney Potter and Mollie Burns were brought in a baggage car shortly after nine o'clock. The body of Isaac D. Romig was taken to his home, and the body of his son, Charles A. Romig, was taken to the Livingston's Undertaking Rooms to be prepared for burial. On the following Tuesday, January 29, 1895, the bodies of these two men were buried in the same grave in Union Cemetery west of Selinsgrove. It was reported that over two thousand people were present at the funeral. It was undoubtedly the largest funeral ever held in Selinsgrove up to that time.

The suffering and the exposure of the victims and the sorrow and gloom that fell on the community cannot be fully described, nor is there any desire to attempt to do so. Business activities in the borough were almost entirely suspended, the public schools were closed until the following Wednesday, and grief was depicted on the countenances of the people of Selinsgrove. All of the injured recovered and in due time resumed their places again in the life of the community. The whole horrible tragedy constitutes a very sad chapter in the history of Selinsgrove.

After considerable delay, due to the impairment of two of the victims of the tragedy and the usual slow procedure of the law, a suit for damages was brought against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company by Attorney Albert W. Potter and Mollie Burns of Selinsgrove. The suit was probably the most important litigation in the Snyder County courts since the days of the Kintzler Murder Trials (1878-1883). The damage suit opened Monday, July 27, 1896, in the Court House at Middleburg and terminated Wednesday, August 5. Judge Robert W. Archibald, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, presided in the absence of Judge Harold M. McClure. Needless to say, both the plaintiffs and the defendant were represented by the best legal talent of that day. The side of the plaintiffs (Potter and Burns) was represented by attorneys James Scarlett of Danville, Simon P. Wolverton of Sunbury, Frederic E. Bower of Middleburg, and Charles P. Ulrich of Selinsgrove. The side of

the defendant (Railroad Company) was represented by the Honorable Joseph C. Bucher of Lewisburg, Henry H. Grimm of Freeburg, and Henry W. Palmer of Wilkes-Barre. The jury was drawn during the forenoon session of July 27, and the suit began in the afternoon of that day. Persons of the sleighing party, members of the train crew, residents of Kreamer and Selinsgrove, medical men, and character witnesses, were heard in the course of the suit. Among the medical men may be mentioned Dr. B. F. Wagenseller, Dr. Franklin J. Wagenseller, and Dr. P. A. Boyer—all of Selinsgrove; and among the train crew were the engineers, firemen, flagmen, and freight conductors. On Thursday morning, the defendant opened up its side. The witnesses of both the plaintiffs and the defendants were recalled to the stand. As was to be expected a considerable portion of the voluminous testimony was controversial and contradictory. On Friday and Tuesday, the legal points of the case were argued. Attorney Wolverton began the plea for the plaintiff, devoting an hour to it. Attorneys Bucher and Palmer followed with urgent pleas to the jury to abide by the evidence. The closing address to the jury was given by Attorney Scarlett whose address was characterized by its logic, oratory, and tragedy, primarily to win the sympathy of the jurymen. All four addresses had been very carefully prepared and were ably presented to the jury.

On Wednesday morning, August 5, Judge Archibald delivered a fair and impartial charge to the jury. Both parties appeared well satisfied with the fair and impartial manner of Judge Archibald in conducting the suit. He showed alertness and quickness in making decisions on controversial issues and promptly disposed of the objections raised and the questions concerning points of the law. The jury took from 11:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M. to reach a decision of \$13,333 damages in favor of A. W. Potter, The case of Mollie Burns for damages for injuries sustained in the loss of a limb and a broken arm was continued until the September term of court. In the meantime, efforts were put forth to settle the case without further court action. About the middle of September, Attorney Grimm with the co-operation of Attorneys Potter and Wolverton and the Plaintiff, Mollie Burns, had an interview with the officers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the purpose of adjusting the damages claimed by Miss Burns for the injuries received in the Kreamer ac-

cident of January 25, 1895. The matter was finally settled by the company paying Attorney Potter \$14,000 and Miss Burns \$4,000.

Selected Readings

Bell, Herbert C., The History of Northumberland County

Knight, Harry S., Early Judges of Northumberland County
Northumberland County Historical Society Proceedings, Vol. I

CHAPTER 22

The Denominational Church Life in the County Many Years Ago

Philosophy can do nothing which religion cannot do better; and religion can do a great many other things which philosophy cannot do at all.

Rousseau

Pioneer Places of Worship

Religion has always played a prominent part in the life of the people of the county. One of the first interests of the early settlers was the matter of worship. Before church buildings were erected, the people worshipped in their homes, in barns, in schoolhouses, and in the open air, but they made provision for the erection of church buildings just as soon as possible. The minister was usually an itinerant preacher traveling on horseback or perchance on foot from appointment to appointment through trails in the forest. There is a tradition that the Reverend Michael Schlatter (1716-1790), a German-Reformed preacher who served the people in the Revolutionary War days and during the days of the Articles of Confederation, and who organized churches and charges in Eastern Pennsylvania, preached at Selinsgrove, Hassinger's (Royer's Bridge), Adamsburg (Beaver Dam), Black Oak Ridge, Middleburg, Beavertown, Troxelville, and Decatur (Samuel's) in Mifflin County. There is also some evidence for believing that the Reverend Henry M. Muhlenberg (1711-1781) conducted church services and attempted to effect some form of a church organization at a place known later as Rowe's Church as early as the year 1760. We definitely know that the Reverend F. A. C. Muhlenberg (1750-1801), son of the great organizer of Lutheran Churches in Pennsylvania, Dr. Henry M. Muhlenberg, conducted religious services in Selinsgrove. He conducted services on the Isle of Que in June and November, 1771, at the home of Benjamin Weiser, son of Conrad Weiser, the Indian Interpreter. Reverend Muhlenberg came here from Trappe in Montgomery County. These were probably the first attempts to conduct Lutheran Church services in this locality.

These early settlers for the most part were a very religious people. Religious persecution drove them to America, and they made the most of their religious convictions in the free life of the American Wilderness. The hastily-built log cabins were probably the first buildings where

the Bible was read, the voice of prayer heard, and the singing of hymns and psalms took place. The first principles of religion were taught the children in the home long before there were church buildings. There were very few ministers in those days, and hence it was a rare opportunity to hear a sermon by an ordained minister of the gospel. No wonder the people opened their homes to them and settlers traveled great distances for the opportunity of social worship and to listen to a sermon.

The settlers came to worship, traveling great distances on horseback or on foot, bringing their trusty flint-locks for protection against prowling Indians around that area. Church services were conducted irregularly and very infrequently because of the dangers of travel, the distances to travel, and the hardship of the wilderness life. It was quite a common practice for people to travel five to ten miles to attend a religious meeting. They traveled frequently in groups for social purposes and for mutual protection against wild animals and the Indians. Even when church buildings or meeting houses existed, they weren't heated since stoves were not then in common use. Sometimes the worshippers brought "foot-warmers", or upon their arrival at the church, a roaring fire was built somewhere on the outside of the building to warm themselves before the worship services began.

In the days of the early settlements, the country was very thinly populated; therefore, there was not much of an opportunity to hold meetings during the week days, and probably not more on Sundays. The settlers were impelled to devote most of their time and energy to clearing the land and building homes for themselves in the wilderness. Occasionally, a minister on horseback came their way to baptize the children and to administer the sacraments to those who wished to have it done, and in other ways brought spiritual comfort to the people. Perhaps his visits were repeated over successive years. This frequently led to holding religious services in some settler's home, or barn, or even in the open air. Whenever a requisite number of people showed the necessary interest in a church, a congregation was organized and a house of worship was erected. This was probably the procedure in the organization of most of the pioneer churches of this locality. Such a condition makes it very difficult to determine the exact date of the founding of a particular church. Did the church begin when worship services were

first held in that community, with the organization of the congregation, with the erection of a church building, or with the official recognition of a congregation of that place? All these questions, together with the absence of written records or at least inadequate records, make the problem of establishing a fixed date for the beginning of a church at a certain place extremely difficult, if not an impossibility.

The First Church Buildings and Schoolhouses

Just as soon as it could be done, buildings were constructed for church and school purposes. The lot was for the most part donated by some person in the community as was the case in Selinsgrove, Freeburg, Rowe's, Erdley's, Hassinger's, Musser's Valley, and other places, but at times the lot was purchased for a nominal sum. Frequently, the church and school buildings stood side by side on the same lot. Sometimes the building of the schoolhouse preceded that of the church, and then the school building was used also for church purposes until a church building could be erected. The raised platform in many old schoolhouses is a survival of the day when the schoolhouse was used for preaching services, the platform serving as the pulpit. The first church building or schoolhouse was built of logs rectangular in shape with a flat ceiling, and about thirty feet by thirty-five feet in size. The logs were usually hewn on two sides, the spaces being filled with pieces of wood and mortar. The work of construction was done by the co-operative labor of the people of the community. The pulpit consisted of stands or elevated platforms about three feet high that extended all the way across the chancel. The pews consisted of narrow slab benches without backs at first which evidently must have been most uncomfortable. Later seats with high backs were introduced, and there were doors with hinges at the entrance to the pews. When the pulpit assumed the nature of a platform, short seats were located at the side of the pulpit for the deacons and the elders of the congregation.

Church Buildings at the Beginning of the Last Century

Let us now describe one of those more imposing and commodious church buildings, erected in the opening years of the nineteenth century, that was still in general

use in the closing days of the last century. These buildings were probably about forty feet square or nearly so. Usually the material employed was wood, stone, or sometimes brick. These buildings were substantial structures. A few have been preserved and are still in use at the present day while others have been torn down to give way to a more modern structure. On the outside these buildings appeared like a two-story building, but on the inside was found a large open space extending from the first floor to the ceiling. Such a building usually had two entrances from different sides of the building. Galleries were found on three sides with stairways from the lower floor leading to them. The floor on these galleries was so arranged that the rear seats were placed much higher than the front ones to afford a clear view of the pulpit. On the fourth wall was located the pulpit. This was somewhat goblet-shaped but only large enough for one person at a time, and was reached by a winding stairway. The position of its floor was about a man's height from the main floor. It was supported by a single pillar. In front of the pulpit on a platform about six inches in height and about six feet square stood the altar. The altar was a box-shaped affair about three and one-half feet square and about as high as an ordinary table. Its sides were panellled. Within the altar were kept the communion cups and plates and certain books and papers. The exposed sides of the galleries and pulpit were laid out in panels and all of the interior woodwork was painted white.

The church pews were rigidly plain and simple in design. Their backs were practically vertical and the seat part was very narrow. The seating arrangement was according to age and sex and not by families and ranks. There were special sections for the old men, old women, young married men, and young married women. The young people occupied the galleries with sections set aside for the boys and the girls separately. In these galleries, they were constantly under the surveillance of the pastor in the pulpit. When two of these young people got married, they were transferred from the gallery sections to the sections on the first floor set aside for the young married men and the young married women. The men and women were not privileged to sit together even though married. To do so would have been considered nothing short of a neighborhood scandal.

A rather amusing story is still told in the county about

a little boy's curiosity concerning these old odd-type church pulpits. A certain mother had brought her little boy to church at a time when he was not yet accustomed to the interior of the church and to the ways of a church service. The preacher in his cubby-hole pulpit on that Sunday appeared unusually enthusiastic in the delivery of his sermon. The little boy wondered what it was all about and inquired of his mother, "Mam, was is dann letz mit dem Kerl?" The mother tried her best to quiet him so that he would not disturb the services but the little fellow would not be quieted so easily. In a short while he repeated his inquiry, only with greater emphasis, and the mother again did her best to silence him. But the little fellow was not to be non-plussed. Evidently if his mother would not tell him, he was determined to find the answer for himself. He maintained his silence a little longer and then said to his mother, "Mam, Ich wase now was letz is mit ihm. Er ware gern dart raus."

The oldest churches had no steeples nor towers, and hence no bells. Some of the churches had a cock on the top of the roof which served as a weather-vane, a custom probably imported from Holland. The cock was supposed to herald the dawn of a new day to the people of the community; so the church was to announce the dawn of a new day for the world. Some believe this practice originated in the story of the cock-crowing and Peter's denial of Jesus, and in this way was supposed to serve as a warning to the church to be on guard against denying Jesus. Probably more churches used a fish instead of a cock because in the early days of the Christian Church the fish was regarded as a symbol of the Savior. Some of the churches had, in addition to a fish, a ball or globe of copper or bronze for the purpose of proclaiming that the whole world belongs to God.

Many of the early churches were union churches, that is, several denominations worshipped in the same building. The sparseness of the population, the poverty of the people, the scarcity of ministers, limited church memberships, the difficulties in travel with respect to roads, paths, and distances, the dangers of wild animals and unfriendly Indians, and vested property interests made union churches highly desirable. Though efforts were often made to bring about dis-union, for the most part they turned out to be futile. Today those denominations that have continued union have demonstrat-

ed the wisdom of their position. Dis-union would have meant social disintegration at a time when union was most needed. Most of the pioneer settlers of Snyder County were of the Lutheran and Reformed faiths, and usually these denominations made up these "union churches." They were quite commonly known as the "church people" while those of other denominations were frequently referred to as the "sect people". Since many of these early settlers came from Germany and Switzerland, they possessed a religious background based on Pietism. They emphasized the need of a deeper spiritual life and experience. They believed in reading the Bible and in a religion of the heart as well as of the head. Children were taught religion in the schools. Family worship was fairly common, and a large Family Bible was considered indispensable in the home. Children first received catechetical instruction before they were confirmed as members of the church. The church auditorium was accepted as a sanctuary in a very real sense of the term, the use of the church auditorium was prohibited for any other than religious meetings, and all meetings of a secular nature were rigidly excluded. These early church fathers understood better the necessity of maintaining a spiritual atmosphere at all times than have those of later generations.

In the Pennsylvania German family where the two parents were of the Lutheran and Reformed faiths, the practice sometimes prevailed for the parents to continue in their respective denominational affiliation but the sons adopted the denomination of the father and the daughters of the mother. Sometimes the denominational affiliation would shift according to the popularity of the pastor. Perhaps more frequently the wife transferred her church membership to the church of her husband. Usually doctrinal differences received scant recognition and the entire family attended the union church services irrespective of whether the Lutheran or the Reformed pastor conducted it. Whenever Lutheran and Reformed congregations worshipped in the same building, they conducted their services on alternate Sundays but always maintained a Union Sunday School. The Lutheran Sunday School literature was used one year and the Reformed the year following. Sometimes they continued to use the same denominational literature or used the non-denominational kind. Nobody seemed to know the difference or even cared about it. The Sunday School officers and teachers

were selected on the basis of availability and qualification, their denominational affiliation wasn't even considered.

The church was the social center of the community life. The people attended church services in large numbers. Before and after the services, they visited, exchanged information about the weather, crops, and local news, and tarried long in the churchyard in one another's company. Some would accompany others to their homes to enjoy a good dinner and to continue the visit in the afternoon. These intimate relationships made for solidarity that manifested itself during the weekdays in general neighborliness of unquestioned value. People were constantly made aware that they had many things in common and their lives became happier and richer because of them.

The Nature of the Church Services

The people in these early days worshipped God in great simplicity. Form and ceremony were not in evidence in a church service. Their clothing was in harmony with their worship. The men came to church in summertime in muslin shirts while the women were arrayed in calico gowns and sunbonnets. The seating of the members in the church was different from that of today. Upon entering the church door, the families separated according to sex, the girls and women seating themselves on one side of the church auditorium and the boys and men on the other side. There were no organs or pianos in the church to aid in the music. In fact many people believed it sacrilegious to have any musical instrument used at all in connection with the church services. Violin music was entirely out of the question. There were no choirs at first, nor church organ; all singing was congregational. The minister announced the hymn, then read the entire hymn to familiarize the people with the pronunciation of the words and with the content. He then "lined it"; that is, he read two lines at a time and the congregation sang the two lines under his direction or under the direction of a "fore-singer or leader". Then two more lines were read and sung, and this procedure was followed until the entire hymn was completed. This was done largely because there weren't any hymnbooks, and because many of the people couldn't read. In this way it was possible for all to join in the singing. This plan had the further advantage that the people, schooled in German and yet able to read

and understand English to some extent, could quite readily make the transition from the German to the English. The people usually sang with devotion and great earnestness. Later cards with German hymns printed in English letters were distributed by the deacons and elders of the congregation and were used in the services. Later this was followed by the use of hymnbooks. In 1867 good choirs could be found in Selinsgrove and Freeburg, and probably in one or two other places. There were melodeons in three of the churches. In 1800 there was only one church bell in the entire county, but in 1867, there were fifteen churches that had bells. In 1800 there were about 500 church members in all in the county, but in 1867 there were about upwards of 8,000.

The collection or offering was taken up with a "klingelseckel" which consisted of a small black velvet bag or sack with a bell attached to its bottom, and fastened to the end of a pole which was sometimes ten feet in length. The deacons would stand at the end of the bench or pew and pass the sack from end to end of the bench or pew. In some cases the handles were only about two feet long. A long handle enabled the deacon to reach everyone in the gallery. The purpose of the bell was to show the great need of the church to be wide awake and alert at all times. The collection, for the most part, consisted of pennies because money was scarce and the people didn't have much to contribute to the work of the church. Denominational lines were rather sharply drawn with respect to the offering. While some of the members of one denomination might attend a service in another denominational church, they were indisposed to join in the offering of the church. An amusing story is related that a certain church member attended the church services away from his home church, and when the offering was taken he declined to make any contribution at all, remarking as his reason, "Ich kare net do haer. Ich kare in Musser's Dal."

Prayer books were in common use. These books had prayers for almost all occasions. Some of the books had selections of Scripture and some hymns. The sermons were usually from one hour to two hours in length and the prayers were almost as long. The sermons dealt largely with rewards and punishments in the life to come. It ought to be remembered that church services were considered very important and the occasions were used by the people for both social and spiritual purposes. This was to

be expected because the people had little opportunity to get together for any other purpose. The church services were the only means of instruction until the establishment of the first Sunday School in the county in 1821. All persons who were received into church membership were given catechetical instruction in what was known as "Kinderlehr". The holidays such as Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day, and Whitsuntide were religiously observed. People refrained from doing any unnecessary work on such days.

The church services were conducted in the German language. Reverend C. G. Erlenmeyer, whose pastorate covered a period of forty-three years (1833-1876), probably never preached to his six congregations a single sermon in the English language. The people had been accustomed to preaching and singing in the German language and they were not much disposed to have a change made in this respect. Whatever schooling the people had was in German, they transacted their business in German, and they thought in German, even though some of them could understand and even speak the English language quite well. Now they were ill-disposed to make a change. They much preferred to continue their old ways. But with the coming of new generations, educated in English schools, there came a demand for a change from the German to the English. The old way reluctantly but gradually and certainly had to give way to the new. It caused some ill-feeling in a number of congregations, but the wish of the younger generation finally prevailed. The movement for some preaching in the English language in the larger towns of the county got under way about 1870. From the time of the organization of the Lutheran congregation in Selinsgrove in 1790 until about the middle of the nineteenth century, the language of the First Lutheran Church was exclusively German. It is said that John App (1793-1876) was one of the forerunners of the church people back in 1843 who insisted on sermons in the English language instead of German as was the custom in that day. About 1850 to 1875, the language used was German-English; since 1875, the services have been conducted exclusively in the English Language. In the strictly rural communities, the transition did not come until about twenty years later.

Ways of Raising Money for Church Enterprises

The Sunday collection for the most part was used to

pay for the hauling of the wood, the services of the sexton, and perchance for lighting the church in case of evening services. The general practice of soliciting funds was by means of a subscription list whenever a church building or a schoolhouse had to be erected, a stove purchased for the church or schoolhouse, or a fence built around the graveyard or the churchyard. The fence around the graveyard usually consisted of wooden posts, rails, and clapboards or palings. Sometimes in certain denominations the money was raised by means of lotteries or "cake-walks" or by some game of chance. This kind of church finance has fallen into disrepute. In some of the town churches, the church pews were sold or rented, the members to have preference, and the money received was used for the payment of the pastor's salary, the payment of the debts of the church, or the payment of necessary repairs to the church. Pew rents in the Trinity Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove in 1844 were collected semi-annually. Sometimes this matter of renting pews led to differences between pastor and congregation. Reverend John Conrad Walter, the pastor of the Salem Lutheran Congregation and Reverend Isaac Gerhart, the pastor of the Salem Reformed Congregation, in 1818, desired that church pews be sold or rented to raise the salary of the preachers but they were so strenuously opposed by the members of the church that the controversy led to the withdrawal of both the ministers from the congregations in the following year.

Funeral Occasions

Cornerstone layings and church dedications attracted unusually large crowds of people. They were the occasions that attracted the attention of the people over a very large area. Funeral services were likewise community occasions. The "Wake" was a generally accepted custom in the county. It constituted the period of time between preparation of the body for burial and the funeral. It was so called because the corpse was watched by friends and relatives over a period of several all-night sittings. At night the friends and neighbors of the family of the deceased sat up through the long solemn night with the corpse in order to provide for the mourning family an opportunity for rest and sleep. A lunch was served about midnight, and in the early morning hours they returned to their homes. This was done nightly from the time of

the death of the person to the burial. When the church bells were introduced, the bell was tolled when a person died. The strokes indicated the age in years of the deceased. The bell also was tolled when the funeral services began at the house of mourning as well as when the funeral procession arrived at the church. The hour of the funeral was usually 10 A. M., thus providing for the large dinner and supper before friends and relatives returned to their homes. This tolling was done by a small rope tied to a clapper that was fastened at its one end to the framework on which the bell was fixed in position. Hearses were not in general use. Large farm wagons, spring-wagons, or sleighs were used instead and were drawn by horses. The body was usually brought into the church and placed in the front part of the church auditorium during the service. The men and boys of the bereaved family sat through the service with their hats on as a sign of mourning. The singing of a hymn usually accompanied the services at the grave. After the funeral service the people returned to the house of mourning where a regular feast had been prepared by the women of the neighborhood. In the preparation for this feast, about six housewives of the neighborhood had to cook and bake over a period of two days, and on the day of the funeral six additional women had to serve as waitresses. Usually six young men served as hostlers on the day of the funeral. It was their duty to care for the horses of the friends and mourners before, during, and after the funeral services. The grave was usually dug by the pall-bearers. No one received any pay for any of these services; it was a general community practice and no one even thought of any remuneration. The entire afternoon was spent in a social way, and usually a second meal was served in the evening of the day, before all the friends and relatives of the bereaved family returned to their homes.

The Eleven Oldest Churches of the County

These eleven congregations were organized and church buildings were erected at a time when this whole area was a part of Northumberland County. This period of time of these eleven oldest churches extended approximately from 1760 to 1825. These pioneer people who settled in this region were German or Swiss as to nationality, and Lutheran and Reformed as to their religious

faiths. Schoolhouses were erected at the earliest possible date after settlements had been made. The schoolhouses were used for school, church, and for other social purposes. One is tempted to ask what would have been the future of the churches had there been no schools in these early days. The purpose of these schools was to teach the three R's and some singing with special emphasis on reading in order that the children and youth might be better prepared for catechetical instruction and subsequent admission to church membership. Because the ministers were comparatively few in number and the congregations they were called upon to serve were very large and widely scattered, school teachers sometimes conducted church services and read suitable sermons frequently from a book of sermons that happened to be on hand in some of the churches. Just when the actual beginnings of church life took place in the territory now known as Snyder County cannot be definitely known. Whatever records are still in existence do not definitely tell us. Probably ministers of the Gospel were in this section during the decade of 1760-1770 to preach to the people and to organize congregations.

It is very significant that each one of the eleven oldest churches was a union church from the very beginning, composed of Lutheran and Reformed congregations. These two denominations were by far the prevailing religious bodies in these early days in this territory. In course of time the belief seemed to prevail among some of them that it would be better for each congregation to have a church building of its own. This happened in seven of these churches, but four of them have continued as union churches to the present day. These four union churches are Salem, Freeburg, Penns Creek, and Black Oak Ridge. A sketch of each one of the oldest churches in the county follows. Each sketch includes not only the history of the union church, but also the history of the denominational churches that may have emerged from the union. It must be quite obvious that the accounts have to be brief. The sketches of these churches are given in their alphabetical order.

Beaver Springs Lutheran and Reformed Church

There is some evidence that the Reverend Michael Schlatter (1716-1790) preached in the neighborhood of

what is today Beaver Springs as early as 1760, and perhaps he organized a congregation at the place. If this is correct, it would make this congregation the oldest Reformed Church congregation in Snyder County, and the mother congregation of all the other Reformed congregations of the county. There is some further evidence that the Reverend Schlatter also preached at Selinsgrove, Hasinger's (Royer's Bridge), Adamsburg (Beaver Dam), Black Oak Ridge, and later organized congregations at Middleburg, Beavertown, Troxelville, and other places. We are reasonably certain there was a congregation of Reformed people at Beaver Springs about 1790. It was probably organized by the Reverend Jonathan Rahauser or by the Reverend George Geistweit a little later. The Lutheran congregation was organized in 1796 evidently by the Reverend F. W. Jasensky. Both Reformed and Lutheran congregations worshipped in private houses, barns, and other places. It was in those days that men went to church with their flint-lock rifles at hand in order to protect themselves against probable Indian attacks, and ministers had to be escorted for miles as they travelled from place to place. A union log church was built at this place about 1800, on the south-east corner of the old cemetery, Market Street and Ridge Lane, and was probably the first church in this immediate locality. It was a two-story building with galleries on the three sides. This log building was repaired and remodelled in 1839, and was replaced in 1855 by a new log building, weatherboarded, and painted white. This second church was located on the north-east corner of Market and Beaver Streets. It was a one-story building with a gallery for the organ and choir. Its seating capacity was 350. It contained a cupola and bell.

The building was used jointly by the two congregations until they separated in 1877. The Lutheran congregation sold its interests, claims, title, and property right in the union church to the Reformed congregation for \$400. The Lutherans then built St. Peter's Church in 1878 on a lot on Market Street purchased from Mrs. Sarah J. Klose. The Reformed congregation continued to worship in the old church until 1884 when it sold the building to the Major William H. Byers Post, Number 384, G. A. R., whose members remodeled it for their particular use. The Reformed people then erected a new brick building and named it Christ Reformed Church. Soon the Post sold the Hall to the Methodists. They removed the build-

ing and erected a new church building on the site. Within a few years, on account of the small membership, the building was sold, dismantled, and the materials transported to Bedford County. The four congregations at Beavertown, Beaver Springs, Black Oak Ridge, and Troxelville became known as the "Beaver Charge".

Black Oak Ridge Lutheran and Reformed Church

St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Church of Black Oak Ridge, in West Beaver Township, was organized as a union church of the Lutheran and Reformed congrega-



St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Church of
Black Oak Ridge

tions, about the year 1790, by the Reverend J. Michael Enterline of the Lutheran church along with the Reverend George Geistweit or the Reverend Jonathan Rahauser of the Reformed Church. A short time after the organization of the two congregations, a log building was erected as a house of worship. In 1818 a second log building was erected that served the two congregations until 1874. Then the building was torn down and a two-story frame building was erected (1874-1875). This building has been in use ever since by the St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Congregation and by the General Council Luther-

an Congregation of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, a part of the United Lutheran Church since 1918. The building was remodeled in 1896. On account of the revivalistic spirit known as the "New Measurism" that swept over portions of the Lutheran Church, a number of the members of the Lutheran Congregation of St. John's Union Church withdrew in 1876 and founded the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and erected a building of their own in the immediate vicinity. This congregation was known as a General Synod Lutheran Church, also a part of the United Lutheran Church since 1918. Each congregation maintained its own cemetery. In 1938 the church building was removed and its members became affiliated with other congregations.

Freeburg Lutheran and Reformed Church

The beginnings of the Freeburg Union Church can be found in Zion's Church or Morr's Church, located about one mile north of Freeburg. In 1774 a schoolhouse was erected by some Lutheran people and used for both school and church purposes. The Morr's Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized about the year 1770, probably by the Reverend J. M. Enterline; the Reformed congregation was organized in 1791 by the Reverend William Hendel, Sr. A patent for a tract of forty-two acres of land one mile north of Freeburg was granted in 1774 to Andrew Morr, Peter Straub, and Caspar Roush. A log church building was partly erected in 1787 but was never completed for some reason. However, it was used in that condition for church and school purposes for seventeen years. At the cornerstone laying it was named Zion's Church. It also became known as Morr's Church, in honor of Andrew Morr, a leading member of the church. An old cemetery marks the site of the church to this day.

There was an agitation for a new church building for a long time. When Zion's Church was no longer used, the people worshipped in private houses as was frequently the custom in that day. Finally, when Andrew Straub laid out the town of Freeburg in 1796, he donated four lots amounting to an acre to be used for school and church purposes by both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. It was decided in 1812 by the two congregations to erect a stone church on this new site in Freeburg. The cornerstone was laid May 7, 1812, with the Reverend J.

Conrad Walter, the Lutheran pastor, in charge of the services. He was assisted by the Reverend John Dietrich Adams, a former pastor of the Reformed congregation. The building of the church was delayed by the War of 1812-1814. When the men returned from military service the work of building was resumed and was completed in time for dedication, October 29, 1815, when the new church received the name of St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church. The dedicatory services were in charge of the pastors, the Reverend J. Conrad Walter and the Reverend Isaac Gerhart. This new church was a two-story stone structure with galleries on three sides. It stood on the northeast corner of South and Church Streets or the southwest corner of the present old cemetery, and was opposite the present brick building. It was considered a model church in those days. It had the usual pulpit along the wall which was reached by a winding stairway. There were long pews extending from the aisle to the wall with high uncomfortable backs. The church was lighted by means of dim tallow candles which were placed on posts. The church had no stoves for heating the building for some time. Two stoves were placed in the building about 1827. The church had a cupola with a bell.

This second building served the Freeburg community until 1868, when the old stone building was torn down to provide a place for a new building. This was the present brick building, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1869. The building was dedicated in 1870. During the interim of about two years when the building was in process of construction, the two congregations worshipped in Boyer's Hall. The new building is of brick construction with both a basement and an auditorium. The basement is used for Sunday School purposes. The steeple is ninety-eight feet high and the bell weighs 2,700 pounds. The building was remodeled in 1904 when a pipe-organ was installed. In 1929 the church steeple was repaired. St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church has connected with it an old graveyard located directly across the way from the church. It was established at the time of the building of the church in 1812. It contains the graves of many of the pioneer settlers of the valley. Andrew Straub, the founder of Freeburg, and the Reverend Charles Gustavus Erlenmeyer, pastor and preacher for forty-three years, are buried in it.

Grubb's Lutheran and Reformed Church

This church was originally known as Grubb's Church, Kruppe's Church, Bauerman's Church, or Botschaft's Church. It was founded as a union church in 1776, although it is known that a burial ground existed as early as 1773. Whether a building was erected at that time or not, there seems to be no way of knowing definitely. The church was owned jointly by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations although the large majority of the members have been Lutherans throughout its history. The church is located in Chapman Township, near Pallas. At the time of the founding of the church, the entire area was known as Penn Township, Northumberland County. In 1795 the territory was known as Mahantango Township. One of the early Lutheran pastors, if not the founder, was the Reverend J. Michael Enterline of Lykens Valley. The founder of the Reformed congregation may have been the Reverend William Hendel, Sr., of Tulpehocken, who occasionally preached in this section.

About 1770 a tract of land consisting of forty-two acres of land was obtained for church and school purposes. The first church building was of log construction thirty by thirty-five feet in size. The pulpit was on the northern side. There was a door on the east and another one on the west side. It had the usual three galleries. It was evidently typical of the churches that were built in this section between 1770 and 1825. The church building was extensively repaired and enlarged in 1836 and took the name of Botschaft's Church. A new brick building was erected in 1872-1876. The church remained a union church until 1934 when the Reformed congregation disbanded on account of a greatly reduced membership. Grubb's Church is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, church organization in the county.

Hassinger's Lutheran and Reformed Church

Hassinger's Church or the Christ's Lutheran and Reformed Church is located two miles west of Middleburg in Franklin Township, and was organized as a union church in 1785. The organization of the two congregations was effected probably by the Reverend J. Michael Enterline, Lutheran, and the Reverend Jonathan Rahauser, Reformed. Prior to this time, the Lutheran services were conducted in private homes. In 1785 a converted Jew, Joseph Simon, and

his wife, Rose, conveyed sixteen and one-half acres of land to Jacob Walter to hold in trust for the Lutheran and Reformed congregations for school, church, and burial ground purposes. About 1785 a log building was erected, although there is no record of any church dedication services. Sometime between 1791 and 1798 a second building was erected a little to the west of the first building. This was a large square structure with a seating capacity for about 500 people. It had high walls



The Hassinger Lutheran Church

and galleries on three sides and a small round pulpit on the north side with a long flight of stairs leading to it. This church was dedicated in 1798. In 1807 the building was weather-boarded and painted white and it became known as the "white church". It was in this building in 1846 that Mrs. Lydia Houtz Schoch organized the first Sunday School in the western part of the county.

Years afterwards many of the members of the union church desired a new building. They sold one of the tracts of land donated by Joseph Simon in 1785, and together with subscriptions, proceeded to build a new church. The old two-story building was dismantled, and much of the material was used in the construction of the new building. The third church building was erected in 1872-

1873, with a seating capacity of about 400. The building consisted of a basement for Sunday School purposes and an auditorium for the worship and preaching services. This church belongs to the General Council Lutheran Church of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The building was weatherboarded and painted white as was the preceding structure. The church was named in honor of a prominent member of the congregation. The Reformed congregation disbanded about 1875 on account of insufficient membership.

Some of the members of the Lutheran congregation were very sympathetic to the General Synod Lutheran Church, and about the time of the building of the third church building, they withdrew and erected another church along the public highway a little farther west of the original church. Mr. Allen Schoch donated an acre of land for church and burial ground purposes exclusively for the Lutheran congregation. A two-story brick building was erected in 1871-1872 with a seating capacity of 350 people. This church belongs to the Central Pennsylvania Synod. Each of the two Hassinger churches maintains a cemetery of its own. The cemetery adjoining the "white or original church" is one of the oldest in the county.

Kratzerville Lutheran and Reformed Church

This church has frequently been referred to as the Zion's Lutheran and Reformed Church of Kratzerville. It was founded by the Lutherans about the year 1790 under the leadership of Rev. J. W. Jasensky. Rowe's Church at Salem can be regarded as the mother church. The first building was a log structure and was located near the site of the later Evangelical and Reformed Church. The Reformed people undoubtedly had some interest in it at an early date, although the church was not officially considered a union church until about 1817 or 1818. At this time, a second log structure was erected on land donated by John Hessler, and thus for a time the church became known as Hessler's Church. In 1847 the log church was replaced by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations with a new brick building. This building had high galleries on the sides and a seating capacity of about 800. About 1885 it became known as Mt. Zion's Church. This church continued union until 1900 when the two congregations separated. During that year the Luth-

eran congregation decided by a vote under the leadership of the Reverend George W. Genzler to sever relations with the union church and to erect a new building for themselves. A plot of ground was purchased from Mrs. B. F. Herman for \$250, and a brick building was erected in 1901-1902 about a block west of the old building on the same side of the street. During the pastorate of the Reverend Charles A. Snyder (1929-1937) the present parsonage was bought and the cemetery was incorporated and placed under perpetual care. The Reformed congregation continued to worship in the old brick church erected in 1847 as a union church by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations until 1904-1905 when the present brick building was erected. During the period of construction, the Reformed Church people conducted their services in the Evangelical Church. The old Lutheran and Reformed Church cemetery adjoins the present Reformed Church.

Penns Creek Lutheran and Reformed Church

The union Lutheran and Reformed Church at Penns Creek (Centreville) in Centre Township was erected probably about the year 1804, although there is some evidence for accepting the year 1810. The church building, located on a rising piece of ground in the northern portion of the town, was a two-story structure built of logs, weatherboarded, and painted white. There were galleries on all three sides, and it had a seating capacity of from 400 to 500. It is supposed that the land on which this building was erected, and the ground for the adjoining cemetery back of the church, were given by Lieutenant Colonel George Weirick. About 1885-1890 a frame building was erected in its place. This church building was remodeled in 1939.

Musser's Valley Lutheran and Reformed Church

The Musser's Valley Lutheran and Reformed Church was located a short distance east of Troxelville, in Adams Township. A Lutheran congregation was organized about 1807, which was probably the first Lutheran congregation in the valley. At first the members worshipped in private homes and in a schoolhouse. The first regular pastor of the Lutheran congregation was the Reverend John Conrad Walter (1807-1819). In 1811 the Lutheran congregation was joined by the Reformed Church people living in that section. A union log church was erected

and was dedicated in 1814 with the Reverend Isaac Gerhart and the Reverend Yost Henry Fries assisting the two pastors. This church became known as Henry's Church, named after Elder Henry Swartz (1768-1834) who had migrated from Berks County in 1800 to that section. It is said that he donated the land for both the church and the cemetery. This church in its early days was also referred to as "Die Dale Kaerrich" or the church of the valley, because of its location in Musser's Valley. Such a location for a church was considered significant and very unusual, since churches generally were built on hill-tops but this church not only was located in the valley, but its members likewise lived in the valley.

After the old log church had become in much need of repairs, the question arose whether both congregations should join in repairing it or whether each congregation should construct a church building of its own. As a result of the controversy the Reformed congregation bought the interests of the Lutheran congregation in 1879, and erected in 1884 what is known as the Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church which stands practically on the site of the original building. The division of the Lutheran congregation was largely brought about by different attitudes with respect to revivalism. There was also the question whether the General Council or the General Synod had the rightful claim to the Lutheran Church property. The outcome was that the General Council portion of the congregation in 1880 built a church near the site of the original church and named it the St. James Lutheran Church, while the General Synod portion of the congregation built a church in the town of Troxelville and named it the St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Both of these churches since 1918 have been a part of the United Lutheran Church. The St. James Church building is a frame structure, and is located about one-half mile east of Troxelville on the public road leading to Centreville. In 1944 the two Lutheran churches merged to form the Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church which is now the former St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church. They have contemplated moving the building of the St. James Church to the lot back of the St. Luke's Church building and using it for Sunday School purposes. The Troxelville community is now served by three churches, the Grace Evangelical and Reformed, the Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Evangelical Church.

Rowe's Lutheran and Reformed Church

According to certain denomination records, Rowe's Church was organized in 1775, although the beginnings of some form of church life took place some years prior to that time. In 1766 a land warrant of ninety-five acres and 137 perches of land was issued to Melchior Stock and others for church and school purposes. The warrant was regularly taken out in 1776 and a patent deed was delivered to the trustees of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations in 1811. Rowe's Church was originally Luth-



The Old Rowe's Church at Salem

eran just as many other early congregations were Lutheran in this section, because the Lutherans were more numerous than were the Reformed church people. The church became a union church in 1802 when the Reformed congregation, previously organized, was admitted to equal rights in the church with the Lutherans. Rowe's Church has been considered by many writers "the first church west of the Susquehanna River" in Central Pennsylvania. It appears that a schoolhouse was built about 1775 and a log church was built a little later, perhaps about 1780. This first church building had a seating capacity of about 400 persons and was thirty by thirty-five feet in size. It had a gallery on three sides with the pulpit on the north side. It had a door on the south side and one on the west side.

It was decided to build a brick church in 1811 on a union basis. The work was begun but was soon interrupted on account of the War of 1812-1814, since many of the men had been called into military service. The work was later resumed, however, and the cornerstone was laid on Sunday, August 7, 1814. This was a great occasion with the services in charge of the two pastors of the church, the Reverend J. Conrad Walter of the Lutheran congregation and the Reverend Isaac Gerhart of the Reformed congregation, with the Reverend Yost Henry Fries, the Reformed preacher from Mifflinburg, assisting. Many people attended the services. Some came barefooted, others came on horseback, while still others came on wagons, having sheaves of rye or straw for seats. The building of the church went forward under the direction of the building committee. It was a brick building equivalent in height to two stories although the interior was all one room, and had three galleries on the east, west, and south sides. On the north side was the pulpit, located about half-way to the ceiling, supported by columns, and reached by a winding stairway. The pews had high, straight backs. The new church was completed in time to have the dedication, May 12, 1816, with the new name of "Salem" for the Lutheran and Reformed Union Church. The pastors of the church, the Reverend J. Conrad Walter and the Reverend Isaac Gerhart were in charge of the dedicatory services. The cost of the building was \$2,100. This second brick building served the congregation until 1897 when another brick building was erected and dedicated, April 24, 1898.

Schnee's or St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Church at Fremont (Mt. Pleasant Mills)

The early settlers of Fremont, Mt. Pleasant Mills, and vicinity attended church services at Botschaft's or at Morr's prior to the time when provision could be made for church services in their own community. Congregations of Lutheran and Reformed people were organized as early as 1810, and they worshipped for some years in a schoolhouse built by Philip Nace and owned by John Schnee, an immigrant from Lebanon County. A plot of ground in a near-by field, enclosed by a fence, served as the burial ground. The two congregations in course of time purchased the schoolhouse and a tract of land from John Schnee and erected in 1853 a substantial brick building for their

church. This church, originally known as Schnee's, served its purpose until 1937 when it was extensively remodeled and renovated. The burial place adjoining the church is known as St. John's Cemetery today.

In course of time the Reformed Congregation became few in numbers so that it experienced difficulty in sustaining itself. In consequence the Joint Consistory of the Freeburg Reformed Church charge decided to disband the congregation as of December, 1942, and recommended that the remaining members unite with other congregations of the charge. The Central Pennsylvania Synod at its meeting in Bedford, May, 1948, formerly dissolved the Reformed congregation of the St. John's Lutheran and Reformed church and referred the property rights of the congregation to the Synodical Council.

Selinsgrove Lutheran and Reformed Church

The Sharon Union Church of Selinsgrove

Lutheran church activities began in Selinsgrove and vicinity with the preaching of the Reverend Henry M. Muhlenberg and his son, the Reverend F. A. C. Muhlenberg. Both Lutheran and Reformed people held religious services for some years in private dwellings, school-houses, and barns, long before any permanent church building was erected. German Reformed people lived in Selinsgrove during the closing days of the Revolutionary War. A Reformed congregation was organized in 1782 probably by the Reverend William Hendel, Sr., and a Lutheran congregation was organized in 1790, perhaps largely through the efforts of the Reverend F. W. Jasensky.

When Selinsgrove was laid out by Major Anthony Selin sometime prior to 1790, a lot on the corner of West Pine Street and North High Street, the site of the present Pine Street public school building, was donated to the German Reformed people for a German Reformed Church. Selin's wife belonged to that denomination, but he himself was a Catholic. On this lot, the Reformed congregation commenced a church building but felt financially unable to carry on the project, and hence abandoned it. By the statute of limitations, the lot and the partially-completed building became the property of the town. The building later was used as a schoolhouse. The lower part of the town had been laid out by Conrad Weiser, Jr., a grandson of the Indian interpreter, and had been named Weiserburg. Weiser was a member of the Lutheran church, and he

donated several lots on Market and Bough Streets as far north as the present site of the Masonic Temple or Community Center, about the year 1800, for a union church, a schoolhouse, and a burial ground. These lots extended to South High Street. By 1802 the old graveyard was enclosed with a fence and contained a number of graves, indicating that the congregation existed prior to that time. In 1845 the graveyard was enlarged by the purchase of an additional lot. Up to 1843 it was the only burying ground in the town and immediate vicinity, the nearest one being that of Rowe's Church. In 1811 a deed was



The Sharon Union Church of Selinsgrove

granted the two congregations for the land by the administrator of Conrad Weiser's estate.

The Reformed congregation joined the Lutherans in building the Sharon Union Church. Funds were raised in 1801-1802 for the erection of a one-story church building. Work began on the construction of a pine-log building forty by thirty-eight by twenty feet. The cornerstone was laid June 7, 1802, and the building was completed in 1803, but there is no record when the dedication occurred. Some of these early dates are not definitely known because no written records were left of many of the transactions. It was undoubtedly sometime during the year 1803. The

first building was popularly known as "the old log church" or "the pine-log church" because of the nature of the structure. The building later was weatherboarded and became known as the Sharon Church. The pulpit was attached to the west wall about half-way between the floor and the ceiling in line with the galleries that were located on the three sides. The entrances were on the east and south sides. The two congregations used the church building on alternate Sundays. The Sharon Church was erected at a cost of \$2,284.22. However, the subscriptions were not sufficient to pay the debt. Nevertheless, a good and consecrated member came to the rescue in the person of John George Ulrich (1753-1824), a Revolutionary War soldier, who "pledged his property until all debts were paid". This action reveals a remarkable spirit of devotion to the church, and is worthy of grateful remembrance.

The Reformed congregation worshipped with the Lutherans until 1855 when it decided to have a church of its own and offered its interest in the Sharon Church to the Lutheran congregation for \$1,000 or offered to purchase the Lutheran interests for \$1,500. The former was accepted. The Reformed congregation then bought a lot on the northwest corner of North Market and Mill Streets and erected St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church there. The work of building commenced at once. The cornerstone was laid in 1855 with the Reverend Benjamin Bausman and the Reverend Henry Harbaugh taking part in the services. The dedication of the church took place in 1856 with Dr. John Nevin, President of Franklin and Marshall College, and Dr. Philip Schaff, Professor in the Mercersburg Seminary, taking part in the services.

When the Reverend J. P. Shindel was pastor (1820-1843) of the Lutheran congregation of the Sharon Union Church, revivals or protracted meetings (schwarmerei), or "New Measures" were held much to the dissatisfaction of many members. These protracted meetings were held daily during the months of January and February, 1843, over a period of three weeks. Several hundred people were converted. There was much opposition to this from both the congregations. The opposition held a meeting and resolved that the Reverend Shindel should not be privileged to preach anymore in the church. He was charged with being in sympathy with this new movement and no longer representing the true Lutheran point of view. He was declared no longer the minister, and a new

vestry was to be elected at a called meeting of the congregation. Plans were laid to build a new church to be known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The church door was locked and admission was refused on the following Sunday. The Reverend Shindel then preached in the street. Those favoring revivals held a meeting in the brick schoolhouse (site of the present Community Center). They decided to separate from the "orthodox Lutherans" under the leadership of Shindel in 1843, and build a church known first as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove, located on the east side of Market Street, south of Walnut Street. John App was among those who withdrew from the First Lutheran Church on account of these new measures promulgated by Pastor Shindel. About 1898 the new church received the name of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. This was the second church in the town in point of origin. In 1943 it celebrated its one hundreth anniversary.

The old Sharon Union Church, composed originally of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, was remodeled three different times, and continued in use until 1884 when the present brick building was erected. It was dedicated the following year. The one-thousand pound bell was tolled for the first time during the burial of General Ulysses S. Grant, August 8, 1885, at Riverside Drive, New York City. The original charter name of the church was the United Lutheran and Reformed Congregations of Selinsgrove. In 1862 the congregation was incorporated by the legislature under the name of the First Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Selinsgrove.

At one time the different churches of Selinsgrove had the use of the Old Lutheran, the New Lutheran, Reformed, Baker's, and Wagenseller's or Union Cemeteries. While the two Lutheran cemeteries located within the borough limits are no longer used for burial purposes, they are maintained in good condition. The Reformed Church Cemetery, located on the northeast corner of Orange and Mill Streets, is only occasionally used anymore, but is kept in a good state of preservation. The Wagenseller's or Union Cemetery located west of the town is the main burial place for Selinsgrove. Among the prominent residents buried there may be mentioned: David A. Day, Emma V. Day, Colonel Henry C. Eyer, Dr. P. A. Boyer, James K. Davis, the Reverend William A. Haas, Frank Weirick, Joseph A. Lumbard, Charles T. Aikens, Jonathan

R. Dimm, Jacob Yutzy, Herbert A. Allison, Harold N. Follmer, Franklin P. Manhart, William A. Sadtler, and Thomas C. Houtz.

The Hard Life of the Gospel Minister

The early ministers of the county sacrificially served the people in ways unheard of today. They deserve unstinted credit for their labors. Traveling from one preaching appointment to another on foot, horseback, and later by horse-and-buggy, over rough roads, through deep snows, and in terrible blizzards, and in the heat and dust of hot summers, the ministers had to possess qualities of extraordinary vigor and spiritual fortitude. No wonder many of them with less physical strength succumbed to these hardships and met with a premature death. The church members were often so absorbed in building homes, rearing families, overcoming difficulties, and in trying to make a living, that they had little time to spare nor money to give for the work of the church. It is a wonder that the pioneer churches of the county survived all these handicaps to lay the groundwork for the superstructure in more recent and better days.

The ministers who served rural churches particularly, frequently received a large part of their salaries in terms of the products of the community. The history of the Virginia Colony tells us that the Episcopalian rector often received part of his salary in tobacco. Sometimes these supplies and provisions were supplementary to their salaries and not a part of them. Butchering time in the fall of the year always meant a bountiful supply of meat for the parsonage. The minister was usually provided with a large garden in which he was expected to raise most of his vegetables. Pastoral calls in horse-and-buggy days scarcely ever failed to be rewarded by a bag of oats for the horse or a large ham for the parson's family. It was a great event for a minister to come into a home. There was much preparation in the way of house-cleaning and in getting ready the big dinner. A rather amusing story is still current in parts of the county of a boy bringing a calf to the parsonage and calmly remarking to the minister, "Papa said you should take this as a gift for my confirmation last Sunday morning". The salary of a minister was pitifully small, especially when compared with present-day salaries. The salary of the Reverend J. P. Shindel, Sr., of Selinsgrove, was \$200 per year; the

salary of the Reverend Isaac Gerhart was \$150 per year. Even such amounts were often difficult to raise. In one of the county churches, the minutes of the official board state: "The treasury is empty, the salary of the pastor back for six months, and the house rent unpaid." Deacons frequently were called upon to see the lay members about unpaid church subscriptions, church expenses, and pew rents.

A few examples will be sufficient to show the reader the extent of a parish and the nature of the work of a minister during these pioneer days. The Reverend John Conrad Walter (1775-1819), a minister of the Lutheran church, served eight congregations in Snyder County and two congregations in Perry County. The Reverend John Dreisbach, an Evangelical minister of Union County, traveling on horseback, served thirty preaching appointments in 1807, some of these appointments being from thirty to forty miles apart. The Reverend Isaac Gerhart (1788-1865), a minister of the Reformed church, served eight congregations in Union and Snyder Counties, and eleven congregations of the Lykens Valley charge. The eight congregations in Snyder County were Selinsgrove, Freeburg, Rowe's, Grubb's, Hassinger's, Beaver Dam, Musser's Valley, and Black Oak Ridge. The Reverend Daniel Weiser served as the pastor of a charge consisting of Selinsgrove and vicinity for nine years (1824-1833). In all he had eleven congregations, and three preaching appointments in addition, thus requiring the constant use of from two to three horses for his traveling.

In 1887 the Lutheran church in the county consisted of the three charges of Beaver, Freeburg, and Selinsgrove. The Beaver charge consisted of four congregations: Beavertown, Beaver Springs, Black Oak Ridge, and Troxelville. The Freeburg charge consisted of St. Peter's, St. John's, St. Paul's, Botschaft's, Salem, Zieber's, Niemond's and Richfield. The Selinsgrove charge consisted of Selinsgrove, Kratzerville, Salem, Keiser's and Middlecreek. At the time, the Reformed church of the county consisted of four charges: Selinsgrove, Adamsburg, New Berlin, and Liverpool. Charges were frequently changed by adding to or by taking from certain congregations. For example, St. Paul's Church at Oriental and St. John's at Richfield became a part of the Freeburg charge in 1842. During the following year, the Salem and Selinsgrove congregations were made a part of the Freeburg charge, but the

Selinsgrove congregation withdrew in 1859. St. James' congregation at Troxelville withdrew from its former connections in 1859, and became part of the Beaver charge.

Pioneer Ministers of the Gospel in the County

Some of the pioneer ministers of the church in the territory now known as Snyder County were at least somewhat influenced by the two great organizers of the churches in Pennsylvania during the latter half of the eighteenth century. The two men who were truly representative of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches in Central and Eastern Pennsylvania were the Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (1711-1787) and the Reverend Michael Schlatter (1716-1790). The Reverend Muhlenberg was born in Germany and came to Pennsylvania in 1742. He was a graduate of Goettingen University, a Halle Pietist, and a great Lutheran preacher and organizer. He is best known for his pioneer work in Pennsylvania in the way of organizing congregations and helping them to secure pastors. The Reverend Schlatter was a native German-Swiss and was educated in Dutch and German universities. He organized many churches and charges in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Among the more noted Lutheran ministers who preached at sometime or another to most of the oldest congregations of the county prior to 1820 may be mentioned John Michael Enterline, John Nickolaus Kurtz, Frederick William Jasensky, John Conrad Walter, John Herbst, and John Matthias Gentzel. Among the Reformed Church ministers may be mentioned the Rev. William Hendel, Sr., Jonathan Rahauser, Cyriacus Spangenberg, George Geistweit, and John Dietrich Adams. All these ministers labored under primitive conditions and with the greatest handicaps. They portrayed a zealous piety and a passion for the Christian church and the Christian ministry that undoubtedly have remained unparalleled to the present day. A brief sketch is given of each one of the consecrated men for the purpose of showing ministers and laymen of a later day the hardships of frontier church life.

THE REVEREND JOHN MICHAEL ENTERLINE, (1726-1800), was born in Bavaria, Germany, and was educated at the University of Leipzig. He emigrated to America in 1762. His ministerial work covered portions of Montgomery, Northumberland, Bucks, Dauphin, Perry, Union, and Snyder Counties. His work as a preacher and pastor in Snyder County is associated with Hassinger's Lutheran Congregation,

Grubb's Church, Morr's Church, Rowe's Church, the Black Oak Ridge Church, and the Freeburg Church. He served in the Christian ministry for thirty-two years. He is buried in the cemetery of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church near Berrysburg, Dauphin County.

THE REVEREND JOHN NICKOLAUS KURTZ (1720-1794) was a native of Halle, Germany, and came to America in 1745, at the earnest request of the Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, to assist in the work of the church. He was the first Lutheran minister ordained in this country at the First Synodical meeting in 1748. He labored for many years in the Tulpehocken region, and later in York and vicinity. He preached occasionally at Rowe's Church (1776-1790). He was the grandfather of Dr. Benjamin Kurtz, the founder of Missionary Institute in 1858, and the son-in-law of the Reverend Henry M. Muhlenberg.

THE REVEREND FREDERICK WILLIAM JASENSKY served the Lutheran Congregations at Selinsgrove, Freeburg, and Rowe's Church (1790-1796), congregations in Perry, Lebanon, and Cumberland Counties, and congregations at Pikeland, Chester County (1807-1817). He died in 1817, and is buried in the cemetery of St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Pikeland.

THE REVEREND JOHN CONRAD WALTER (1775-1819) was a native of Germany. He was a shoemaker by trade but turned to the Christian ministry through the preaching of the Reverend William Hendel, Sr., at Tulpehocken, Berks County. He served eight congregations in Snyder County—Selinsgrove, Rowe's, Freeburg, Grubb's, Hassinger's, Musser's Valley, Fremont, and Adamsburg, and two congregations in Perry County, Liverpool and Pfoutz's Valley. He died in Middleburg in 1819 and is buried in the old Hassinger Cemetery.

THE REVEREND JOHN HERBST was licensed to preach at York in 1796. From about 1801 to 1804, he served as the pastor of the Rowe's, Hassinger's, Selinsgrove, Grubb's, Freeburg, and probably the Middleburg Congregations. He resided at Middleburg. He died at Manchester, Maryland, in 1824.

THE REVEREND MATTHIAS GENTZEL preached to congregations in what is now known as Snyder County prior to 1800. Among these congregations may be named Zion's near Freeburg, the Lutheran Congregation at Selinsgrove, the Kratzerville, Bottschaff's, and Hassinger's. He was drowned in the Middle Creek near Hassinger's Church in 1808, and was buried in the Hassinger Church Cemetery.

THE REVEREND JOHN WILLIAM HENDEL, SR., was a native of the Palatinate, Germany, was educated at Heidelberg University, and came to America in 1764. He served pastorates at Tulpehocken, Lancaster, and Philadelphia. During his pastorate at Tulpehocken, he visited Selinsgrove and vicinity. He prepared a number of young men for the Christian ministry. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the College of New Jersey (Princeton). He died of yellow fever in Philadelphia in 1798, and was buried in Franklin Square.

THE REVEREND CYRIACUS SPANGENBERG (1745-1795) was a native of Germany, and came to America with the Hessian soldiers in 1776. He preached at Selinsgrove and Rowe's Church, and at other places in that locality. Later he served pastorates in Cumberland and Somerset Counties. He died in Bedford, Pennsylvania.

THE REVEREND JONATHAN RAHAUSER (1764-1817) was a native of Dover Township, York County, and died at Hagerstown, Maryland. He was prepared for the Christian ministry by the Reverend

William Hendel, Sr. He served congregations at Selinsgrove and Sunbury. His last charge consisted of congregations in Washington and Frederick Counties, Maryland, and in Adams and Franklin Counties, Pennsylvania. This charge serves as an illustration of the size of a pastorate that a pioneer minister was called upon to serve, traveling on foot, horseback, and by carriage to meet his preaching appointments. He died in 1817 of an illness contracted through exposure in fording a swollen stream while returning home from a church service. He was buried at Hagerstown, Maryland.

THE REVEREND GEORGE GEISTWEIT (1761-1831) was a native of Pennsylvania. He served congregations at Selinsgrove, Sunbury, and vicinity. He was the founder of several churches in the county, one of which was located at Adamsburg (Beaver Springs). He was married to the sister of Rev. Rahausen.

THE REVEREND JOHN DIETRICH ADAMS was a native of Germany, and was considered an able preacher and well-educated man. He came to America, landing at Baltimore. He served congregations at Sunbury, Freeburg, Grubb's, and Beaver Dam (Beaver Springs).

CHAPTER 23

Denominational Churches and Sectarian Organizations of the County in more Recent Years (1825-1945)

Look out for a people entirely void of religion, and if you find them at all, be assured they are but a few degrees removed from the brute.

David Hume

Denominational and Sectarian Churches

Brief accounts of the eleven oldest union denominational churches of the county (1770-1825), and of the denominational churches that have developed from them, have been given in the preceding chapter, and no further consideration may be given them. In the present chapter brief accounts will be given of those union and denominational churches and sectarian organizations that were founded in the county since 1825. A few of these churches such as St. Paul's Lutheran and Reformed church (Erdley's) in Middlecreek Township have been union churches since their beginning. Many more churches were union churches at the beginning but in course of time became denominational churches such as those at Verdilla, Middleburg, and Beavertown; while the vast majority of the churches of the present day have always been denominational churches. The denominations that have churches in the county today are the Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist, Evangelical, United Brethren, Episcopalian, and the Mennonites. A number of sectarian churches are located in different parts of the county. There are no Baptist, Presbyterian, or Catholic Churches in the entire county. There are but two Methodist Churches and one Episcopal Church in the county.

Union, Lutheran and Reformed Churches

ARBOGAST OR ZION'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This church is located about two and one-half miles from Mt. Pleasant Mills, and about five and one-half miles south-east of Richfield. The congregation was organized in 1859 by the Reverend C. G. Erlenmeyer, and a building was erected in 1861. Prior to that time, the members met in private homes for worship. The church building was renovated in 1930. The church has its own cemetery.

BEAVERTOWN LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCHES.

The Lutheran and Reformed congregations originally worshipped together in a union church building in 1851. This church was evidently the first one erected in this place. The building was constructed of logs, weatherboarded, and was painted white. The Lutheran Congregation, together with the Middleburg and the Hassinger congregations, constituted the Middleburg Charge in 1872. About 1873 a portion of the

Lutheran Congregation organized themselves into a General Council Lutheran Congregation; the remainder of the Lutheran Congregation continued as the General Synod Lutheran Congregation. Each group of the Lutheran Congregation claimed the full right to the Lutheran share of the union church property but finally in some way the General Synod Lutherans got control of it. They then sold their interests to the Reformed Congregation and erected a frame building near by for their own use. This Lutheran Church was dedicated in 1880 and is known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The General Council Lutherans continued to worship with the Reformed Congregation in the old building. The Beavertown Community Cemetery is located in the northern part of the town adjoining the Reformed Church building. In this cemetery are buried the honorable Ner Middleswarth (1783-1865), his wife, Christine Middleswarth (1789-1861), Moses Specht (1818-1895), and other prominent people of that community.

ERDLEY'S OR ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCH. This church is best known as the Erdley's Church, and is situated in Middlecreek Township, on the road from Kreamer to New Berlin, near the boundary line between Middlecreek and Jackson Townships. The Lutheran Congregation was organized by the Reverend C. G. Erlenmeyer in 1857. The church building was erected in 1857, and was dedicated in 1858. Mrs. Eve Erdley, the widow of Henry Erdley gave an acre of land free for a church and a graveyard. A steeple and bell were added to the building in 1874. In 1900 the church building was extensively renovated, the pulpit and choir platform were re-arranged, new pulpit furniture was added, the entire interior was repainted and the ceiling frescoed, and the two entrances were replaced by a central door leading to a central aisle. The cemetery adjoins the church building. Through the action of the county court, a corporate body known as the Erdley's Church Cemetery Association was formed in 1929 for the permanent upkeep of the cemetery.

HALL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OR ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. This church is located a short distance below the village of McKees Half Falls, on the Susquehanna Trail. The church building was erected and dedicated in 1861. A cemetery adjoins the church building. In 1895 the church was remodeled, and an addition was built to the front of the building.

McCLURE LUTHERAN CHURCHES. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church was organized in 1877 with twenty-four families, many of whom had belonged to the St. John's Lutheran Congregation at Black Oak Ridge. At first there was no church building and worship services were conducted in the Middleswarth's schoolhouse from 1877 to 1889. This schoolhouse was located about two and one-half miles east of McClure on what is now route 522. In 1889-1890 a two-story frame building was erected. In 1910 the building was enlarged, a parsonage was purchased in 1914, and a Sunday School room was added in 1927. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church was affiliated with the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

The Christ Lutheran Church building was erected in 1887 and belonged to the Synod of Central Pennsylvania. The two Lutheran Churches were the result of a division among the Lutherans of that section. The two congregations continued as separate organizations for many years. As of January 1, 1945, the two congregations united into one congregation known as the Trinity Lutheran Church. The merged congregations now worship in the former St. Matthew's Church building. The former Christ Lutheran Church building is now used as the parish house for recreational and social purposes, and its par-

sonage as the parsonage of the united congregations. The parsonage of the former St. Matthew's Church was sold and the money received was distributed in proper proportion among the St. Matthew's (McClure), the St. John's (Black Oak Ridge), and the St. James' (Troxelville) Congregations, all three of these congregations having been affiliated with the ministerium of Pennsylvania. The McClure Union Cemetery consists of about two acres of land and is located on the hillside along route 522, east of the town.

KREAMER OR ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. The congregation of the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Globe Mills (Old Zieber's Church) disposed of its property in 1933, and purchased the Kreamer Evangelical Church building, and re-dedicated the church as a Lutheran Church under the name of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church after the old St. Peter's Church at Globe Mills.

McCLURE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH. The church building, located at the East End of McClure, was erected in 1910; but the congregation of seventy members was not organized until the following year. This was largely accomplished because the people of the community desired a more convenient place of worship than was afforded by the St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Church at Black Oak Ridge. Prior to the building of the Mt. Bethel Church, the young people were given catechetical instruction in the home of Mrs. Jacob Stuck at McClure and later were confirmed in the St. John's Ridge Church. This situation, during the pastorate of Reverend F. W. Brown, awakened the desire to have a Reformed Church at McClure.

MIDDLEBURG LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCHES. The Union Church of the Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Congregations of Middleburg was erected in 1834. The building was of brick construction with galleries on three sides, a high pulpit on the east side, and a steeple with a bell. In 1861 the church building was remodeled and was made a two-story structure with an auditorium and basement. The two congregations separated about 1890. The Lutherans erected a brick building on what was then known as the French Flats and took the name of the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Reformed Congregation retained the old building and improved it from time to time. It was extensively remodeled in 1938. Middleburg has a union cemetery known as the Glendale Cemetery, located in the eastern portion of the town.

MIDDLE CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH AT THE ELECTRIC DAM, SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH. The church is located at the Middle Creek Electric Dam about two miles from Selinsgrove and about one-half mile from the Susquehanna Trail. It is a frame building erected in 1900. The congregation is a part of the charge of the First Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove. The church has its own cemetery.

RICHFIELD LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCHES. The Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1842 by the Reverend C. G. Erlenmeyer, then pastor of the Freeburg Parish; the Reformed Congregation was organized sometime prior to 1842 by the Reverend S. B. Seibert, then pastor of the Selinsgrove Reformed Congregation. The two congregations worshipped together in a church building until 1907 when the Lutheran Congregation withdrew and built a church building of their own nearby. The church building is located in Greenwood Township, Juniata County. There has always been a very happy relationship between the two congregations as is illustrated by the fact that when either one of the congregations is without a pastor, both congregations are served by the pastor of the other congregation.

SHAMOKIN DAM OR ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. The Lutherans of this section had worship services as early as 1835, but a congregation was not organized until 1872 by the Reverend M. L. Shindel, the Lutheran pastor at Selinsgrove. The present church building was erected in 1888. Doctor John B. Focht served as the pastor from 1880 to 1882; Doctor Peter Born served as the pastor from 1882 to 1884; Doctor Jonathan R. Dimm served from 1884 to 1915; and Doctor Frank P. Manhart served from 1916 to 1932. These four men were among the most distinguished men in the Lutheran Church and were connected with the Theological Department of Missionary Institute and of Susquehanna University.

UNION CHAPEL AT BANNERVILLE. It appears that not all the church people of the vicinity were content to become affiliated with the Brethren Church of the town. Consequently, another church building was erected in 1907-08 for the use of a Sunday School and for worship services for the people of different denominations. Reuben Smith and his wife donated the lot on which the present chapel was erected. Union Chapel is open to all ministers of the various denominations.

VERDILLA LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCH, OR ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCH OF VERDILLA, OR KEISER'S CHURCH. In 1840 Jacob Keiser, a citizen of that section, donated two acres of land for the erection of a union church and the laying out of a cemetery for both congregations. Prior to the erection of the church building, worship and funeral services were usually conducted in the Keiser homestead. The first building was of log construction. The pews were arranged on a gradually sloping floor from the rear of the church to the pulpit. A stairway led to the pulpit located on the north wall. During the period of the Civil War improvements were made in the nature of a roof on the building, installation of up-to-date pews on a level floor, and weatherboarding the building. The old church was located about 300 yards south-west of the present church building. The present building was erected in 1905 on a plot of land donated by John R. Aucker.

The Keiser or Verdilla Church continued a Union Church from 1840 to 1905 when the Lutheran Congregation disbanded on account of insufficient membership. About the same time the Reformed Congregation of the Zieber's Union Church at Globe Mills disbanded for similar reasons. The interests of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations were mutually adjusted by granting to the Reformed Congregation at Verdilla the exclusive right to the Keiser Church property and by granting to the Lutheran Congregation at Globe Mills the exclusive right to the Zieber Church property.

THREE RIVERS UNION CHURCH IN SPRING TOWNSHIP. Many years ago Felker's Schoolhouse in Spring Township was used as a public school during the week days and for a Sunday School on the Sabbath. After it ceased to be used for public school purposes, the building was purchased by the community from the School Board in 1911 for use as a Sunday School and Church. The community does not have a regular pastor.

Evangelical Churches

In 1803 the three groups of followers of Jacob Albright formed a fellowship known as the "Albright People"; in 1816 the name "Evangelical Association" was adopted; and in 1922, the association took the name of

the "Evangelical Church". In 1946, the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church merged and became known as the Evangelical United Brethren Church. For the sake of historical clarity, the sketches of the different churches of each of the two denominations are given separately under their former names.

ALINE EMMANUEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN PERRY TOWNSHIP. The first church building was erected in 1869. In 1894 the old building was torn down and a new white frame building known as the Grace Evangelical Church was erected. In September, 1944, the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The cemetery is known as Troutman's Cemetery at Aline.

BAKER'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN WEST BEAVER TOWNSHIP. The church is located about two and one-half miles north of McClure. The building is a white frame one and was erected in 1888, and remodeled in 1914. It has a cemetery known by the same name as the church.

BEAVERTOWN EVANGELICAL CHURCH. A United Brethren church was established in Beavertown in 1865 and was named the Bethesda Church. In 1872 the building was sold by the United Brethren people to the Evangelical Association, and it has continued as an Evangelical Church to the present time. The building is a frame structure. In 1896 the building was moved back and a tower and Sunday School room were added. The church has no cemetery of its own but uses the Community Cemetery for burial purposes.

DANIEL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN BUCKWHEAT VALLEY. This church is located in Perry Township. It was named in honor of Daniel Straub who donated the land for the church and cemetery. It is a brick building, and was erected in 1871.

HOOVER'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH AT THE MIDDLE CREEK ELECTRIC DAM. The present church is a continuation of the Old Hoover's Church of the Evangelical Association. It is a frame building erected in 1894. It has a steeple with a bell. Its location is about two miles south-west of Selinsgrove and about one-half mile from the Susquehanna Trail. The church building was repaired and improved in 1938.

HUMMELS WHARF EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The congregation was organized in 1912. The church and Sunday School were held in the schoolhouse until the present church building was completed in 1914. The building is a one-room, one-story brick structure. Burials are made in the West Side Cemetery.

SELINGROVE EVANGELICAL CHURCH. This church is located on West Mill and North Eighth Streets. The congregation was organized in 1930 and a building of brick construction was erected in 1931. From the time of the organization of this congregation until the erection of the church building, the worship services were held in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Selinsgrove.

SCHREINER'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN MONROE TOWNSHIP. The church is located about three miles from Shamokin Dam in the northern part of Monroe Township. It was founded in 1882 and named after John Schreiner who lived in that section for many years. A cemetery adjoins the church building.

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN ADAMS TOWNSHIP. The church is located about two and one-half miles south-east of Troxelville. In its earlier years, the church was known as "Die Schwarte Kaerrick" (slab church) because of the material used in its construction. The present church building was erected in 1895. A cemetery is connected with the church.

TROXELVILLE EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The church is a frame building, erected in 1875, and is located on the west side of the road leading into the town from the south.

WITMER'S EVANGELICAL CHURCHES, EAST AND WEST, IN UNION TOWNSHIP. Ministers of the Evangelical Association came to Chapman Township in 1834. Union Township was a part of Chapman Township until 1869. A group of worshippers was organized into a congregation. In 1835 the congregation erected a log church building with timber from an acre of land donated by John Gaugler. This church was known as the Witmer's Evangelical Church, and was the original Evangelical Church of the locality. The nearest Evangelical Church at the time was located at New Berlin. Differences began to develop in the congregation to the extent that in 1857 a number of the members withdrew and built another Evangelical Church in the township. The new church appeared to prosper for a time but finally diminished numbers made it expedient to dispose of their building, and the remaining members re-united with the mother church. In 1891 trouble made its appearance a second time, members withdrew and built a church of their own in 1894 about 400 yards to the north with the name of the Witmer's Evangelical Church, East. In 1908 the original church building was torn down and a new building erected. This building took the name of the Witmer's Evangelical Church, West.

ZION'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN CENTRE TOWNSHIP. The church is located about six miles north-west of Middleburg. The original Zion's Church was a United Brethren Church, built about 1850 on a plot close to the present Zion's Evangelical Church. About 1890 the Evangelical Association got possession of this church and Reverend J. G. M. Swengel became the first Evangelical pastor. This Evangelical Church was torn down and the present Evangelical Church building was erected in its place. It is a frame building. There are two cemeteries located at this place, the one belongs to the Zion's Evangelical Church and the other to the United Brethren Church at Kissimmee.

A second Zion's United Brethren Church was erected about one mile from the old Zion's United Brethren Church on what was known as Zion Hill and was used until 1871 when a new building was erected. This church building was later torn down and the Kissimmee United Brethren Church was built from the material in 1916-1917. The Kissimmee United Brethren Church is located in Franklin Township about two miles north-west of Middleburg. It is not definitely known when its congregation was organized.

KRATZERVILLE OR ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The first Evangelical Church services in this locality were conducted in the home of David Heiser. This home was located on the south side of the road at the east end of the town about half-way down the hill. Later on, David Heiser donated a tract of land to the township for the erection of a schoolhouse, with the understanding that his people would have the privilege to conduct their church services in it. In 1869 the congregation erected the present church building. The cemetery is known by the name of the United Evangelical Cemetery. This church was officially closed June, 1948, on account of its small membership. These

members will probably become affiliated with the Trinity Church in Winfield.

MANBECK'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN SPRING TOWNSHIP. The church building is located about two miles north-west of Beaver Springs. The building is a frame structure and was erected in 1850. In 1888 it was replaced by a new frame building. The Manbeck Church Cemetery is located about one-eighth of a mile from the church building.

McCLURE EVANGELICAL CHURCH. This church is located in the town of McClure in West Beaver Township. Originally, the church building was a frame structure and was erected in 1872. It was replaced in 1938 by a brick building.

MIDDLEBURG EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The Evangelical Association effected an organization at the county-seat about the year 1800 when religious services were conducted in the private homes of Jacob and John Walter. It appears that a circuit was formed in 1804 by Reverend Jacob Albright (1759-1808), the founder of the denomination. Between the years 1804 and 1880, worship services were conducted in the schoolhouse of the vicinity. For several years services were conducted in the United Brethren Church. In 1887 a frame church building was erected. This was considerably enlarged in 1906 and 1922. The circuit today is composed of the Middleburg and Paxtonville Churches.

PAXTONVILLE EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The church was built in 1869 under the direction of the Evangelical Association. Prior to the building of the church, the congregation worshipped in the schoolhouse. The cemetery is called the Paxtonville Cemetery.

PENNS CREEK EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The Evangelical Church at Penns Creek was established probably about the year 1800 largely on account of the Evangelical activities in New Berlin. Reverend Jacob Albright (1759-1808), the founder of the Evangelical Church, visited this community and preached in the home of John Walter. It appears, however, that no organized church at Penns Creek was founded until about 1850. In 1870 the first church was erected. It was rebuilt in 1897.

PORT TREVORTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH. The church building is a frame structure, and was erected in 1894. About that time this church broke away from the Evangelical Association.

SALEM OR SHAMBACH'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH. This church is located on the public road between Middleburg and Penns Creek in Centre Township. The cemetery connected with the church is known by the name of Frye's Cemetery.

United Brethren Churches

CHAPMAN OR ST. JOHN'S UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH IN CHAPMAN TOWNSHIP. The church building is a one-room frame structure erected in 1893. The church cemetery is known today as St. John's United Brethren Cemetery, but was called the Herrold's Burial Ground before any church building was erected there. In this cemetery is buried General Williams of the Mexican and Civil Wars. In 1871 General Williams became a resident of Chapman and conducted a store there until the time of his death in 1900.

FLINT VALLEY OR EBENEZER UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. The church building is located about two miles south of Freeburg in

Washington Township. The origin of the congregation is unknown. Long before a church building was erected, the people worshipped in private homes and in the schoolhouse. The church building was erected in 1880. It is a plain square building. A cemetery is located east of the church.

FREEBURG UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. The church is located on the north side of Church Street. About 1850 the Reverend Eusebius Hershey was sent by the Conference of his church to Freeburg, then Union County, to carry on the work of a mission church. The people at the time worshipped in homes and barns. Reverend Hershey erected the first church known as the "Little Church" performing part of the work of building it himself. This church served as a house of worship from 1852 to 1906. In 1906 a new white frame building was erected. Its bell is the one from the first church. The church belongs to the Middleburg circuit. The cemetery adjoining the church building was acquired in 1852. It contains the graves of some of the oldest residents of the community.

FREMONT OR EMMANUEL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. The church building is located at the west end of the town. It is a frame structure, painted white, and has a cupola and bell. The bell was formerly on the cupola of the Moyer Musical College of Freeburg. The second church building was erected in 1909. The congregation originated about 1851 through the missionary activities of the Reverend Eusebius Hershey.

HUMMEL'S UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH IN FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP. Most of the members of the Hummel's United Brethren Church originally belonged to the Boyer Evangelical Church, located about two miles north-west of Middleburg. Some of the members of the Boyer Evangelical Church had become dissatisfied with their regular minister. They secured the services of the United Brethren Minister, whose circuit was New Berlin and Middleburg, to hold services on such Sundays that wouldn't conflict with the time of the services of the regular pastor. The minister, Reverend David Buddinger (1896-1898), was an able preacher and was well liked by most of the members. The dissatisfaction of some of the members with their own minister plus their admiration for the new minister finally led to a division in the congregation. The result was that a number of the members withdrew and built the Hummel's United Brethren Church in 1898. The building is located on the north-east corner of Franklin Township about five miles north-east of Middleburg. A large oak tree across the road from the church building is the meeting place of the three townships of Centre, Franklin, and Middlecreek. Edward Hummel, a farmer, carpenter, and leading member of the congregation, donated one-half acre of land for church and cemetery purposes. He also contributed much of the labor and materials for the erection of the new frame church. The congregation was organized in 1896 as an outgrowth of prayer meetings in the community.

KISSIMMEE OR ST. LUKE'S UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. This church is located in the village of Kissimmee in Franklin Township about one and one-half miles west of Middleburg. The congregation was officially organized in 1854. The present building was erected in 1916. The circuit consists of the Middleburg, Hummel's, Freeburg, and the Kissimmee Churches.

MIDDLEBURG UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. The Middleburg Church of the United Brethren in Christ was founded in 1850 by Reverend Eusebius Hershey (1825-1891). The first services were con-

ducted in the streets of Middleburg, the homes of the people, the schoolhouses, and in an old log house until the year 1848. In 1853 a one-story brick building was erected with a steeple containing a bell. The sessions of the county courts were held in this church until the county courthouse was erected. The church building was remodeled and enlarged in 1871, when a second story was added. The present church building was erected in 1908-09.

PARADISE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH IN CHAPMAN TOWNSHIP. The church is located in the northern part of Chapman Township. It had its beginning about 1848 or 1849 in religious services conducted in the homes of the people, in groves, and in the schoolhouse. In 1854 a frame building was erected on a plot of land donated by William Reichenbach for church purposes. A second frame building was erected in its place in 1899. The cemetery adjoining the church building is known by the name of the church.

PORT TREVORTON OR MARKWARD UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. The present church building is a frame structure and was erected in 1873. Prior to the erection of the building, worship services were conducted in the homes of the people. The church was named after one of the bishops of the denomination, the Reverend Jacob Markward (1815-1873).

RICHFIELD UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. The antecedent of the Richfield United Brethren Church was the Pine Swamp United Brethren, located on the North Mahantango Creek, not far from Richfield. When the Pine Swamp Church was abandoned, a new United Brethren Church was erected in 1876 in Richfield.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH. This church is located on the south side of the Mahantango Creek, about a half mile west of the Susquehanna Trail. The building was erected in 1871. It has a large cemetery adjoining the church building. While the church is located across the creek in Juniata County, it has served as a place of worship for many Snyder County people.

ST. THOMAS UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH IN PERRY TOWNSHIP. This church is located about two miles from Meiserville. It is a one-room frame building with a cupola and bell. The building was erected in 1891 on land donated by Eli Portzline (1851-1928), a public school teacher of the county for thirty years. He is buried in the cemetery a short distance across the road from the church. Prior to the building of the church, worship services were conducted in the homes of the people and in the schoolhouse.

Brethren Church

BANNERVILLE BRETHREN CHURCH. In 1876 Enoch Shellenberger and family settled in the village of Bannerville, and engaged in the mercantile business. It appears that no religious services had been held in the place until Mrs. Shellenberger started a Sunday School in the village schoolhouse. Then ministers began to conduct preaching services in the schoolhouse, and soon the interest in these worship services appeared to justify the erection of a church building. The result was that a frame building was erected and dedicated in 1892 as the Brethren Church.

Methodist Churches

THE SELINGSGROVE METHODIST CHURCH. This church had its beginning about 1820 when the people of that faith in the commun-

ity occasionally held religious services in private homes, the union schoolhouse on Pine Street, and in the schoolhouse on the Isle of Que. In 1848 a church building was erected on Water Street but it was destroyed in the fire of 1872. A two-story brick building was erected in 1874 on the site of the original structure.

THE SHAMOKIN DAM METHODIST CHURCH. The Methodist people in this locality first worshipped in the schoolhouse. In 1870 they erected a two-story frame building which continued in use until 1904 when it was replaced by a new frame building. In 1884 a bell was placed in the belfry in memory of Doctor Isaac Hottenstein who had donated the land on which the church building had been erected. His name appears on the bell. The Shamokin Dam church and the Selinsgrove church are served by the same pastor.

Episcopalian Church

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SELINSGROVE. Miss Mary Kittera Snyder, granddaughter of Governor Simon Snyder, lived in the Governor Snyder mansion at the time of her death, July 27, 1900. She was an ardent Episcopalian, and shortly before her death had begun the erection of the present church edifice on North Market Street as a memorial to her illustrious grandfather. Her estate was willed to the church.

Mennonite Churches

THE CROSSROADS MENNONITE CHURCH. This church is located on a part of land of 1,000 acres purchased by John Graybill (1735-1806) in 1772. On this tract is located Pomfret Castle, erected in 1756 as a protection against Indian raids. John Graybill was a Mennonite, and hence a man of peace. According to the custom of these plain people, they worshipped in private homes for many years before any church was built. The first Mennonite Church in this section was built in 1854. It was a stone structure. It was later replaced by a large substantial building of brick construction with a slate roof. This church maintains a regular Sunday School. There is a large and very old cemetery nearby in which many of the early settlers and some Indians are buried. John Graybill, the first settler in this section is buried in this cemetery.

THE SUSQUEHANNA MENNONITE CHURCH. The church is a frame building and is located about two miles west of the Susquehanna Trail, alongside the Upper Herrold Schoolhouse, back of the Old Herrold's Burial Ground, in Union Township. The first building was erected in 1890. A preaching service is conducted every two weeks, and Sunday School and Bible Study are held each Sunday. No musical instruments are used in the church.

THE STAUFFER MENNONITE CHURCH. This church is located about five miles north-west of Port Trevorton. The frame one-story church building was erected shortly after the close of the Civil War and remodeled in 1920. There is a shed on the church property for the use of vehicles and horses. No musical instruments are used in the services. There is no Sunday School. A cemetery is connected with the church.

Sectarian Churches

THE EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OR PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH is located in West Perry Township, about one

mile east of Richfield. The building is a white frame structure and was erected in 1939-40.

THE MIDDLEBURG PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH is located in the east end of the borough, formerly known as Swineford. The church is a stucco building and was erected in 1935.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES KINGDOM HALL AT McCLURE was constructed in 1934.

GOD'S MISSIONARY CHURCH is located in Beaver Township at Dreese's Schoolhouse, one mile north of the public road leading from Middleburg to Beavertown, from a point about three miles west of Royer's Ridge. The church building was erected in 1934.

Biographical Sketches of Ministers

Reverend Jacob Albright

Reverend Jacob Albright, the founder of the Evangelical Church, was born near Pottstown, Montgomery County, 1759, and died at Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County, in 1808. His death was due to galloping consumption. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church but never had a genuine religious experience. The death of his children and the soul-stirring sermons preached at their funeral services, together with a great revival, gave him a new and more satisfying religious experience. He then became a member of the Methodist Church, and became a lay preacher. The great indifference of the church people and the existing evils led him to devote his life to the Christian ministry. This resulted in the founding of the Evangelical Association. He preached in Union County (included Snyder) (1806-1807). The first Evangelical Church of the new denomination was erected at New Berlin. Its first Publishing House was also erected there. Reverend Albright was by trade a manufacturer of tiles and bricks before he became a preacher. Reverend George Miller, Reverend John Dreisbach, and Reverend John Walter, all of whom preached in Snyder County, were co-workers of Reverend Jacob Albright. Reverend John Walter preached with much success at Beaver Dam (Beaver Springs).

Reverend John Dreisbach

Reverend John Dreisbach (1789-1871) was born near Dreisbach's Church in Buffalo Valley, Union County, and died at Circleville, Ohio, in 1871. He became a disciple of Reverend Jacob Albright, and began to preach in 1807. He served preaching appointments of the Evangelical Association in Northumberland, Lebanon, Union, and Snyder Counties. He prepared a book of hymns for use in the Evangelical Churches. He was prominently identified with the establishment of the Evangelical Publishing House at New Berlin in 1816. He served in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania as the representative, together with Ner Middleswarth, of the district comprising Northumberland, Union, and Columbia Counties (1827-1829). In 1854 he was made the editor of the Evangelical Messenger.

Reverend Yost Henry Fries

Reverend Yost Henry Fries (1777-1839) was born in Gusterhaus, Westphalia, Germany. His birthplace was a small village about fifty miles east of the Rhine River about due east of Cologne. He came to America in 1803 as a redemptioner and landed at Baltimore. He found

a home with a York County farmer for whom he worked to pay his passage across the ocean. The Reformed Church pastor of that section was Reverend Adam Ettinger who encouraged him in his aspirations to become a minister. He began his theological studies in 1809 with the Reverend Daniel Wagner of Frederick, Maryland, and was licensed in 1810 at the meeting of Synod at Harrisburg. He began his preaching in a charge composed of eight churches in York County. In 1812 he accepted a call to the Mifflinburg Charge consisting of Mifflinburg, Dreisbach, New Berlin, Aaronsburg, and Brush Valley. During these years (1812-1825) he also served as preacher and pastor at Milton, White Deer, Muncy, Bloomsburg, Hartleton, Lewisburg, and Selinsgrove. In 1817 he founded St. John's Church of Milton. He was probably also the founder of the Reformed Church of Lewisburg in 1832, at least he officiated at the laying of the cornerstone of the Lutheran and Reformed Church located at the time where the present Lutheran Church stands. He was succeeded in his pastorate at Selinsgrove in 1823 by the Reverend Daniel Weiser (1799-1875). He had some trouble in a number of his congregations, probably because of his outspoken manner and the fact that he was interested in politics and wrote for newspapers on political issues. He was blind the last years of his ministry but nevertheless continued his pastoral and preaching work.

Reverend Fries was married twice and had a family of thirteen children. He had a son named John Fries (B. 1815) who was the father of John H. Fries (1850-1928), a farmer, blacksmith, and thresherman of Middlecreek Township, and whose son, Charles N. Fries is now residing in Kreamer. Another son was Frederick Fries (B. 1826) who was the father of Sue Fries of New Berlin and of Franklin Fries of Montandon. A third son was Judge Henry W. Fries, formerly of Lewisburg but later a resident of the State of Iowa. He died in Mifflinburg, October 9, 1839, and was buried in the cemetery at that place. Reverend Henry Harbaugh (1817-1867) paid the following tribute to Reverend Yost Henry Fries:

He was a very ready speaker. He spoke only extemporaneously, using neither note nor skeleton. He was quick and active in soul and body. He was by nature and by grace exceedingly kindhearted. His work could be depended upon. Mr. Fries was remarkably open, honest, and true. He was fearless in his preaching. His heart was in the church of his Fathers.

Reverend Isaac Gerhart

Reverend Isaac Gerhart (1788-1865) was born in Bucks County and died at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was the father of the noted Reformed Church theologian, the Reverend Emannuel V. Gerhart (1817-1904). He served as pastor of eight congregations in Union and Snyder Counties (1813-1818) and was compelled to resign because of ill health, evidently the result of his arduous labors. During his pastorate at Freeburg, the Lutheran and Reformed Church was built and dedicated. It is said that he traveled about 2,500 miles in the course of a year in meeting his preaching appointments and in making his pastoral calls. He was a zealous advocate of catechetical instruction. He had a reputation as a musician and did much to raise the standard of singing in his congregations. Reverend Gerhart and Frederick Eyer were the joint authors of a music book called the "Church Harmonica". He accepted a call to the Lykens Valley Charge, in 1819, with eleven preaching appointments and continued until 1843 when his health failed the second time. He resigned and accepted a church at Frederick, Maryland (1843-1849). Later he served the Manheim Charge (1849-

1856) when he retired from the active ministry and moved to Lancaster where he continued to do supply work. He served for fifty-three years in the Christian ministry. He died at Lancaster of pneumonia in 1865.

Reverend William A. Haas

Reverend William A. Haas, pastor of the Reformed Church of Selinsgrove, was born June 20, 1841, at Pottsville, Schuylkill County, and died at Selinsgrove October 8, 1905. He received his preparatory training at the Freeburg Academy, and then entered Franklin and Marshall College from which he was graduated in 1864. He was graduated from the Mercersburg Seminary in 1867. He was ordained a minister of the Reformed Church and accepted a call to the Augusta Charge, Northumberland County, which he served for about five years (1867-1871). He became the pastor of the Selinsgrove Charge in 1871 and served it until his death in 1905. This charge at the time consisted of Selinsgrove, Kratzerville, Salem, and Freeburg. His son, Cyril, was graduated from Susquehanna University and from the University of Michigan School of Medicine, and became a medical missionary to Adana, Turkey.

Reverend Eusebius Hershey

Reverend Eusebius Hershey was born at Manheim in 1825 and died in Africa in 1891 while completing a brief missionary career on the "dark continent". He was the author of a booklet of poetry. The following ditty may be taken as representative of the style and content of his compositions:

Eusebius Hershey is my name,
I seek not here for earthly fame;
Rebersburg is my address,
In God I seek my happiness.
Centre County now comes in,
God knows I hate the ways of sin,
Pennsylvania comes in below
From earth to heaven I hope to go.

It is said that he was an energetic and resourceful man, and revived United Brethrenism in Union and Snyder Counties by his evangelistic preaching (1848-1853). In 1850 he was appointed to take charge of the Union County Mission which embraced part of present day Snyder County, serving it for about two years. He preached in Monroe, Union, Chapman, and Washington Townships. He built the United Brethren Church at Freeburg, laboring with his own hands in co-operation with the other laborers in its construction. He organized congregations at Middleburg and Port Trevorton. He lived for awhile at Rebersburg, Centre County, about 1877.

Reverend George Miller (1774-1816)

Reverend George Miller was born near Pottstown, Montgomery County, and died at New Berlin, Pennsylvania, of tuberculosis. He was brought up in the Lutheran faith but later became affiliated with the followers of Jacob Albright. He was a wheelwright by occupation. When the publishing house was established at New Berlin, George Miller became the chief printer. He preached at various periods at Selinsgrove, Middleburg, and Beaver Dam.

Reverend Harvey Grant Snable

Reverend H. G. Snable (1867-1947) was born in Northampton County, and was educated at Lafayette College and the Mt. Airy The-

ological Seminary. He was ordained by the Ministerium in 1892. He became pastor of the Freeburg Charge which at the time consisted of six congregations—St. Peter's at Freeburg, Grubb's or Botschaft's, St. John's at Mt. Pleasant Mills, Zieber's at Globe Mills, St. Paul's at Erdley's, and Rowe's at Salem. He served this charge until 1896. He then became the pastor of the Salem Charge consisting of four congregations—Salem, Zieber's, Erdley's, and Hassinger's. During his fifty-five years in the Christian ministry, he baptized 1,942 children and adults, confirmed 1,047 people, married 780 couples, and conducted 1,270 funerals.

Bishop Uriah Franz Swengel

Bishop Uriah Franz Swengel was born near Middleburg, Snyder County, October 28, 1846. He was one of four Swengel Brothers who served in the Gospel ministry. He came from hard-working, industrious, Pennsylvania German parentage. He was licensed to preach in 1867 by the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Bishop Swengel possessed a crusading evangelistic spirit. He was a good promoter and organizer and an excellent executive. He was a large contributor to the religious press, editor of the Sunday School literature, and a great preacher. He served as secretary of the Annual Conference and of the General Conference. He was a pioneer in leadership training and a promoter of Christian Endeavor Work. In 1910 he was elected bishop and was re-elected in 1914. He served as a trustee of Albright College. He was a soldier in the Civil War and was an eye-witness of Lee's surrender. As a minister, he held numerous pastorates and was a presiding elder for a number of years. Bishop Swengel stood high in the Councils of the Evangelical Church. He died, March 8, 1921, and was buried in the Prospect Hill Cemetery, York, Pennsylvania.

Reverend John Peter Shindel

Reverend John Peter Shindel, Senior, was born at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, in 1787, and died at Sunbury in 1853. He was buried in the Pomfret Manor Cemetery at Sunbury. He was licensed to preach by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1812, and remained with the ministerium until 1842, when he became a member of the East Pennsylvania Synod and continued so until the end of his life. He served that Synod as its President (1843-1845). He had a large pastorate but retained his church at Sunbury (1812-1853) throughout his active ministry. In addition to his preaching at Sunbury, he preached at the Sharon Union Church (1820-1843) and at the Trinity Lutheran Church (1843-1846). He preached at Rowe's Church (1819-1843) and in churches in Northumberland, Union, Dauphin (Gratz and Berrysburg), and Schuylkill Counties. He was much interested in "New Measurism" which gave more recognition to revivals and protracted meetings in winning members than to catechetical instruction. He prepared a number of young men for the ministry, wrote a liturgy for the Lutheran Church, and composed a number of church hymns.

Reverend Jacob Frederick Wampole

Reverend Jacob Frederick Wampole (1833-1906) was born near Spring City, Montgomery County, and died in Shamokin, Northumberland County. He was educated at Gettysburg College and Theological Seminary. He was licensed to preach by the West Pennsylvania Synod and was ordained in 1857. He served pastorates at Shamokin (1857-1867) (1891-1906), Turbotville (1867-1876), and Freeburg (1876-1891). When Reverend Wampole was pastor of the Freeburg Charge, the charge consisted of congregations at Freeburg, Botschaft, Fremont, Salem, Zieber's, and Erdley's.

Reverend Daniel Weiser

Reverend Daniel Weiser was born in Selingsrove, January 13, 1799, and died of apoplexy at East Greenville, Montgomery County, November 6, 1875. He was the youngest child of Conrad Weiser (1749-1803), the grandson of Philip Weiser (1722-1761), and the great grandson of John Conrad Weiser, the Indian Interpreter (1696-1760). Reverend Daniel Weiser was the father of C. Z. Weiser (1830-1898) who served as pastor of the Reformed Church at Selingsrove (1854-1862), and an uncle of Reverend Reuben Weiser (1807-1885) who served as pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church (1846-1848). For a time he clerked in his brother's store in Selingsrove. When he was fourteen years old, he enlisted as a volunteer in the War of 1812. He began the study of Theology in 1819, and was licensed to preach in 1823. In 1824 he was ordained at the meeting of Synod at Bedford. He became the successor to the Reverend Yost Henry Fries in the Selingsrove Charge which consisted ultimately of fourteen preaching appointments (1824-1833). It is said that he had from two to three horses in use in looking after his preaching and pastoral work. He served the New Goshenhoppen and Great Swamp Charge (1833-1863) after which he retired from the active ministry.

Reverend John Walter (1781-1818)

Reverend John Walter was born near Quakertown, Pennsylvania and died of tuberculosis in Hanover Township, Lebanon County. He was a basket-weaver and tailor by occupation. He was a very effective preacher as measured by the number of his conversions. He was the composer of many church hymns in the German Language. In the face of great opposition, sometimes approaching violence, at New Berlin, he succeeded in accomplishing an outstanding piece of Evangelism in behalf of his church.

Reverend Charles Gustavus Erlenmeyer

Probably no minister of the Gospel in Snyder County was more popular and wielded a greater influence upon his parishioners than did the Reverend Charles Gustavus Erlenmeyer of Freeburg. Reverend Erlenmeyer was born in Moensheim, Leonburg County, the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, February 18, 1808. He was instructed in the faith and was received into the membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at the age of fourteen. In the fall of 1822, he entered the college at Stuttgart and continued his studies there until the fall of 1826. He then entered the University at Tubingen and continued his studies in theology until 1831. In the spring of 1832, he embarked in a sailing vessel for America, and after a very stormy voyage, landed at Baltimore, Maryland, in October. In the fall of 1833, he was licensed to preach the Gospel as a member of the West Pennsylvania Synod at a meeting at Mifflinburg, Union County. He began preaching at Liverpool, New Buffalo, and in the Wildcat Valley in Perry County. In 1870 he became a member of the Old Pennsylvania Synod and served in it until his death in 1876. In 1835 he was married to Catherine Steele of New Buffalo, Perry County. He was the father of ten children, three sons and seven daughters. He served forty-three years in the Christian ministry (1833-1876), thirty-four of which he was the pastor of the Freeburg Charge (1842-1876). This charge at the time consisted of congregations at Freeburg, Salem, Zieber's, Grubb's, Erdley's, and Schnee's.

Pastor Erlenmeyer led a very busy life as a pastor and preacher. He left a diary giving record of his ministry. During the years of his ministry he had 5,273 infant baptisms, 185 adult baptisms, 2,013 con-

firmations 1,395 weddings, and 2,228 funerals. At all hours of the day and night, in all kinds of weather, whenever his health permitted, he ministered to the sick and dying of his congregation. In the sick room, he gave fervent prayers, sang hymns, read appropriate scripture verses, and spoke comforting and consoling words. He was a great lover of music, was passionately fond of church music, was an exceptionally good singer, and was a musician of great note. He was conversant with the music of the great masters such as Beethoven, Handel, and Hayden. He was a great scholar, a man of fine literary tastes. He possessed refined sentiments, and was classically well-educated. He could easily have filled a professorship in some college or university. He was ever ready to help wherever help was needed. He had a special interest in the poor of his parish and helped them to help themselves whenever the opportunity afforded itself. His interest in education was outstanding. He was one of the original promoters of the Freeburg Academy and served as the president of the corporation for a number of years. At the time of his death, he was the vice-president.

Pastor Erlenmeyer was a very humble man. To him contentment was great wealth. He had a remarkable interest in children and young people. Long before the Christmas season, he began to accumulate gifts and presents and during the Christmas season, he went the rounds of his parish to distribute them to the children and youth of his parish. This activity afforded him great happiness and satisfaction. To the children and youth, he was known as "Papa Erlenmeyer" and to the parents as "Father Erlenmeyer". He was always punctual in meeting his appointments, although he seldom carried a watch. His eyesight remained excellent to the last. He never used spectacles in private life nor on the pulpit. The last sermon that he preached was based on the parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-15).

Reverend Erlenmeyer contracted a heavy cold, February 25, 1876, took to his bed the following day, and gradually grew worse, until his death nine days later, March 6, 1876, of typhoid pneumonia. In line with his request, the hearse which bore his remains to the church and cemetery was drawn by his favorite and faithful horse. The funeral was the largest that had ever taken place in Freeburg. It was estimated that from 1200 to 1500 people were in attendance. The funeral services were conducted by Revs. J. G. Anspach, J. W. Early, E. L. Reed, Peter Born, of the Lutheran Church; and by Revs. William A. Haas and L. C. Edmonds of the Reformed Church. Memorial services were conducted later in the other churches of the parish. Appropriate resolutions were passed by the different organizations with which he was affiliated as well as by the several congregations. A monument association was formed at Freeburg on the day of the funeral, and later a beautiful memorial was erected over his grave in the cemetery adjoining the Freeburg Church from the funds contributed by the different congregations of the parish.

Reverend David A. Day, Missionary to Liberia

When we speak of Christian missionaries in Africa, our minds momentarily turn to David Livingstone, Robert Moffett, Morris Officer, and David A. Day. The life and services of Doctor David A. Day deserve mention here because he received his education in the only institution of higher learning within the confines of the county; because his grave in Selinsgrove has become the mecca of many pilgrimages; and because of the place accorded to his memory for his distinguished services in the foreign mission field.

David Alexander Day was born on a farm about four miles northwest of Dillsburg, in Latimore Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, February 17, 1851. His father was of Scotch-Irish descent, and

made his living as a shoe-maker and day laborer. David A. Day was the oldest of a family of twelve children. As a boy he was hired out to the farmers, some of whom had no interest in education, and hence he received little schooling in his early life. He learned enough, however, in school to read the BIBLE, FOX'S BOOK OF MARTYRS, AMERICAN HISTORY, and probably a few other books.

In 1863, when David was but twelve years old, he ran away from his employer and went to Harrisburg where he obtained employment in a livery stable. Later he enlisted in Company D, 78th regiment, P. V. I. serving for a period of eight months, from February 8, 1865, to September 11, 1865. Upon his return from the army, he again served as a hired boy on the farm. In the short winter months he attended school, and in due time he began to teach (1869-1870). About this time he felt the call to the Christian ministry. In preparation for it, he entered Missionary Institute, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, in the fall of 1869, and continued his studies there, with some interruptions, until May, 1874, when he, at the age of twenty-three years, left for the Muhlenberg Mission, Liberia, West Africa. Prior to his departure, he married Emily Virginia Winegarden of Philadelphia, (1853-1895) who was a student at the Susquehanna Female Institute in Selinsgrove.

Reverend and Mrs. Day entered upon their work as missionaries with great enthusiasm, and made it a great success. This mission field had been founded in the year 1860 by Reverend Morris Officer (1823-1874), a graduate of Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, where he is buried. The mission had been named after Muhlenberg, the great patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America. It is located on the St. Paul's River about twenty-five miles from Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia. Mr. and Mrs. Day continued their work there for twenty-three years (1874-1897) in spite of the deadly climate to which many missionaries succumbed within a very short time, but these two strong persons held out for well-nigh a quarter of a century. During this time, Doctor Day had three furloughs: in 1879, 1883, and 1893. In his sojourns in America, instead of taking a rest to renew his strength as he undoubtedly should have, he traveled thousands of miles, visiting many churches in the interests of the work of missions, speaking to hundreds of congregations throughout the Lutheran Church.

David A. Day, as a missionary, believed in the education of the heart, the head, and the hand. He believed that no Christian was an efficient Christian unless he was an intelligent, well-informed Christian. He based his whole religious philosophy on this principle. He not only founded churches, but also schoolhouses and industrial workshops. He taught the natives farming, carpentry, and blacksmithing, as well as reading, vocal music, the catechism, painting, drawing, nature studies, and weather observations.

He was an able preacher, teacher, missionary, and administrator, with a broad culture and a sympathetic heart. Mr. and Mrs. Day were admirably fitted for the work of Christian Missionaries. The man who can select one thing from among the almost innumerable things of life, and then marshal his powers to do that one thing well to the exclusion of all others, is a truly great man. The life motto of such a man is—"This one thing I do". He was most enthusiastic about his work, and was so completely convinced of the divine call to the missionary field, that he could not be induced to accept any other position offered to him. He was offered at one time the position of Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, and at another time a prominent position in the United States Weather Bureau because of his extensive scientific knowledge of storms and other weather phenomena on the west coast of Africa, but he invariably replied—"I cannot accept, I am a missionary".

He had a wide knowledge of human nature. This undoubtedly accounted for much of his success as a missionary. Medicine men and witch doctors were common in his day on the west coast of Africa. Their charms and fetishes were recommended safe preventives of disease, accident, and even attacks by enemies. One particular medicine was supposed to afford protection against fire. A house in which it would be kept could never be burned down. Doctor Day's experiences with a certain witch doctor show that he thoroughly understood the psychology of human nature. At one of his demonstrations, Doctor Day appeared to be convinced and declared that such medicine would likewise serve a need in his own house but he was unwilling to buy before he had tested the efficacy of the medicine. Striking a match, he held it to the dry thatch overhead, and immediately it burst into flames. This demonstration completely convinced the natives of the falsity of the claims, and they drove the witch doctor out of the community. Another experience ought to be repeated here to illustrate the case in point. The natives at one time had lost all faith in Doctor Day because in an unguarded moment he had told them that in America water sometimes became so hard that people could walk on it. The confidence could be restored only through the importation of an ice machine.

Mr. and Mrs. Day had three children, all of whom died in early childhood on account of the unhealthy climatic conditions, and are buried in the Muhlenberg Mission. The deadly African fever, hard work, grief over the untimely death of the children, and the heavy responsibilities ultimately wore out their bodies prematurely, and they fell victims to a complication of diseases. Mrs. Day's ill-health compelled her to return to America in April, 1894, where she died the following year. In 1896, Doctor Day married Anna E. Whitfield of Dundos, Canada. After Day's death the widow married in 1903, Reverend Richard W. Woodworth, a Methodist minister of Southern Ontario. Reverend Woodworth died in 1917.

In October, 1897, on account of failing health, Doctor Day was compelled to leave the mission field to seek medical help. He left the Muhlenberg Mission for Monrovia, and from there he sailed to Liverpool, England, where he was a patient for sometime in the Royal Infirmary. With his health somewhat improved, he sailed for America, and died December 17, 1897, at sea about thirty-three hours before the ship reached New York. At the time of his death, he was but forty-six years old. Both Mr. and Mrs. Day and a young African girl, Meme Stewart, adopted by the Day's, are buried in the Union (Evergreen) Cemetery, west of Selinsgrove.

Doctor David A. Day's name has become a household word, expressive of the pioneering foreign missionary work of the great Lutheran Church of America. His name is held in blessed memory by countless thousands even to this day. The few surviving people of those who personally knew him and remember him still speak reverently and affectionately of him. On Sunday afternoon of each Commencement Week at Susquehanna University, a pilgrimage is made by students faculty, alumni, and friends to the grave of Doctor and Mrs. David Day in Union Cemetery where appropriate memorial services are conducted under the auspices of the Student Christian Association of the University.

In addition to David A. Day, there were two other missionaries to Africa who received their college and theological training at Susquehanna University and who also served in the Liberian Mission Field. They were Reverend Joseph Daniel Curran, who served from 1911 until his death by drowning in September, 1930, and Reverend David Day Dagle who served from 1926 until his death, August, 1933, from

the African black fever. None of these three missionaries was a native of Snyder County, but all three were educated at Susquehanna University and all three served in the same mission field.

Dr. Cyril H. Haas, Medical Missionary To Turkey

Dr. Cyril H. Haas, a distinguished medical missionary to Turkey, was born in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, May 10, 1876. He was the son of the Reverend William A. Haas, Pastor of the St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church of Selinsgrove for thirty-four years (1871-1905). He attended the Selinsgrove Public Schools, graduating from the local high school in 1895. In the fall of the year, he entered Susquehanna University, graduating with the A. B. degree with high honors in 1899. From his youth up, he was known to be a great reader, and was inclined to be very studious and deeply religious. He had a keen sense of duty and responsibility, a passion for righteousness, and was recognized as a leader among the young people of his age. As a young man, he was exceedingly missionary-minded which indicated definitely his life-career motive. Poor health was his great handicap, and in order to overcome this weakness, he spent a number of summer months in the lumber camps of Warren County, in north-western Pennsylvania in the hope that the out-door life among the ever-green trees would help him in the building of a stronger body. He also spent several months at Saranac, New York, under the medical care and supervision of the famous Dr. Trudeau in an effort to acquire good health.

After completing his college course, he entered the Medical School of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1903 with the M. D. degree. He continued at the University an additional year in the study of surgery. In 1906 he began the practice of medicine among the poor mountain white folk of southwestern Virginia at Konnorock, in the hope that the outdoor life and the high altitude would benefit him. After two years of practice with his health greatly improved, he returned to his native Selinsgrove and began the practice of medicine there. He gained his best reputation as a doctor in the treatment of pneumonia and tuberculosis, in surgery, and in obstetrics.

His yearning for the mission field ever persisted during these years. His original plan was to go out as a medical missionary to the great rice bowl section in China under the direction of the Foreign Mission Board of the Reformed Church, but for reasons of health, he was unable to realize his plans. Later he applied to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and was accepted for a mission post at Adana, Turkey, in Asia Minor, in 1910. At last the great hope of a life time was in process of being realized. Dr. Haas became one of the most distinguished medical missionaries in the entire foreign field. For nearly fifty years he has conducted a hospital at Adana with marvelous results. With the growth of the Turkish medical profession and with the opening of free clinics under the direction of Turkish doctors, made possible by government appropriations and support, Dr. Haas' Hospital at Adana had to be closed, and he was no longer privileged to conduct free clinics. It soon became evident, however, that the Turks preferred to come to Dr. Haas and pay fees for medical services rather than receive such services at the free clinics provided by the government. Dr. Haas worked long hours daily to give his careful and sympathetic attention to each patient that came to him. Some days his clinic hours began at 4 A. M. and terminated in the evening only after the last patient had been cared for. No wonder Dr. Haas endeared himself to the people of Turkey. It is said that some years ago when he was seriously

ill, his Moslem friends offered prayers in their mosques for his recovery. The annual report for the year ending June, 1945, states that during the year he received 11,500 patients at the clinic. These figures indicate the enormous amount of medical service he was giving to the people, and the hard work and long hours required to do it.

Some years ago a regulation was passed in Turkey prohibiting any more foreign doctors from entering the country. This prohibition meant that when Dr. Haas would retire at the age of seventy, according to the regulation of the American Board of Foreign Missions, the work at Adana would have to be closed since there will be no medical missionary to succeed him. It is the wish of Dr. Haas, however, that he be continued by the Board as long as his health will permit. The American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions has already acceded to this request that he should continue in service for a while longer.

Abandoned Churches or Churches No Longer in Existence

Catholic Church On the Isle of Que

During the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal in this section a Catholic Church was begun on the Isle of Que. The cornerstone was laid October 19, 1828. The proposed church was located on a lot now the site of the present borough lock-up and implement house on East Bough Street near Penn's Creek, on the Isle of Que. The labor in the building of the canal was done by local people and Irish immigrants. These Irish were Roman Catholics and the church was to be constructed primarily for them. Other Roman Catholic churches were built along the course of the canal but upon their completion, these Irish moved away and their churches fell into disuse and were razed. The Selinsgrove church building was of brick construction and was gotten under roof, but was never completed. The bricks were used later in 1843 in the building of the sexton's house at the rear of the Trinity Lutheran Church where the present Sunday School room is now located, and in building Jackson W. Gaugler's house on the southwest corner of Front and Bough Streets, now owned by the Reverend David A. Kemmerer of Littlestown, Pennsylvania. So far as is known, this was the first and only attempt to establish a Catholic Church within the territory of Snyder County.

The First Presbyterian Church of New Berlin

The First Presbyterian Church of New Berlin was organized in 1841. The corner stone of the church building was laid in 1843 and the church building was dedicated in 1844. By 1933 the membership of the church had become reduced to two persons and the church services were discontinued. The Reverend Robert L. Vining of Mifflinburg was the last stated supply pastor.

The Baptist Church in Selinsgrove

In the year 1857 preaching services were conducted in Selinsgrove by the Reverend A. J. Bell of Lewisburg. The following year the first Baptist Church of Selinsgrove was organized. The original congregation consisted of seventeen persons, who presented a call to Reverend Andrew J. Hay to become their pastor. In 1859 a building committee was chosen to erect a house of worship. The building was located on the east side of Water Street, three lots below Pine Street. The church building was destroyed in the great fire of 1872 and was never rebuilt. The congregation soon after disbanded.

St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church at Globe Mills

St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church at Globe Mills was formerly known as Zieber's Church, and was so named in honor of Daniel Zieber who settled in the vicinity about 1816, and who donated much of his money and services to the building of a church at that place. The church was located a short distance south of the village of Globe Mills alongside the present public-schoolhouse. The building was erected in 1840 and was remodeled in 1902 as a Lutheran Church because the Reformed members had become too few in numbers to continue as a congregation. In 1933 the Lutherans abandoned the building, dismantled it, and disposed of the lumber and other materials. They then purchased the Evangelical Church building at Kreamer, re-dedicated it as a Lutheran Church, and named it St. Peter's Lutheran Church after the mother church at Globe Mills. The cemetery at Globe Mills is maintained by the Globe Mills Cemetery Association incorporated in January, 1935.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Black Oak Ridge in West Beaver Township

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Black Oak Ridge in West Beaver Township was organized as a result of the revivalistic spirit that had invaded the Lutheran Congregation of the Union Church at that place. Some of the members of the Lutheran Congregation withdrew about 1876 and built a church of their own on the ridge about one mile farther east and called it the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. This was a General Synod Church and has been part of the United Lutheran Church since 1918. This church had its own cemetery. In 1938 the building was removed, and the members of the congregation became affiliated with the other congregations of the west end of the county.

The Evangelical Church at Kreamer

The Evangelical Church at Kreamer was organized about the year 1868 by Reverend Simon Aurand. The original frame building, erected at a cost of \$1,300, was destroyed by fire January 4, 1900, and a second building was immediately erected. In course of time the Evangelical members diminished in numbers to such an extent that they found it no longer possible to operate as a congregation. In 1933 the church property was purchased by the Lutheran Congregation of Globe Mills, and was re-dedicated as the St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Kreamer.

The Boyer's Evangelical Church in Franklin Township

The Boyer's Evangelical Church building is located about two and one-half miles north-east of Middleburg in Franklin Township, and was erected in 1895. The land for the church building and for the cemetery was donated by Susan Boyer. The building was extensively repaired in 1945, so that it is again in a good state of preservation. No church services have been held in it since 1940.

The Old Evangelical Church in Port Trevorton

The old Evangelical Church building in Port Trevorton, located across the highway from the general store, is still standing but is no longer in use. It is the original or mother church of the Evangelical Association, of the vicinity.

The Evangelical Church in Richfield

The Evangelical Church in Richfield was an active organization

from 1914 to 1939 when it was disbanded because of the diminishing membership. The property was then deeded by the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association to the Church of the United Brethren in Christ of Richfield.

The Evangelical Church of New Berlin

The Evangelical Church of New Berlin may be regarded as the mother church of the Evangelical Association and was founded in 1816. At the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Church in March, 1929, action was taken to discontinue the work in New Berlin and to sell the church building and parsonage. This property was bought in 1929 by Alfred Baum who in turn sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Russell H. Solomon in 1938. The church auditorium is now used as a garment factory. The borough office is also located in the building. At the time of the founding of the church, the church trustees purchased land as a burial place. This plot is located at the southern end of the Old Cemetery on the east side of Walnut Street, and is frequently referred to today as the Evangelical Section.

Mt. Zion's Church of the United Brethren in Christ in Union Township

An Evangelical Church building of brick construction was erected in 1857 on a triangular plot of ground formed by three roads, near Witmer's Schoolhouse, about two miles north-west of Port Trevorton, in Union Township. In course of time, the church passed into the possession of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and became known as Mt. Zion's United Brethren Church. The building was later removed. The cemetery on the neighboring hillside is still in use.

Union Church at Red Bank, Washington Township

For a number of years religious services for the community were held in the old Red Bank Schoolhouse. On account of the unsatisfactory accommodations, the people decided to build a church. The church was located about two miles west of Freeburg near the Red Bank Schoolhouse. It was a frame structure 28 feet x 40 feet, erected on a plot of ground donated by John Arbogast and wife, and dedicated November, 1907, as a union church for all Protestant Denominations. The building was removed, December, 1946, and only the foundation walls remain.

The Trinity Church at McKees Half Falls

The Trinity Church, located along the Susquehanna Trail at McKees Half Falls, Chapman Township, was erected in 1860 as a union church for the use of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1885 the church came into the exclusive use of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. The building is a large two-story brick structure with a cupola that originally contained a bell. When the church was abandoned as a place of worship about the turn of the century, the bell was removed and was placed on the steeple of the Paradise Church. There is an old cemetery adjoining the west side of the church building that has long since been abandoned.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ in New Berlin

The building of the Emmanuel Church of the United Brethren in Christ in New Berlin is of brick construction. It was erected in 1857 and was remodeled in 1913. The Allegheny Conference of the United

Brethren Church decided in September, 1935, to abandon this church, and offered the property for sale. The property was purchased in December, 1935, by Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Doebler. This building was then set aside for Boy and Girl Scout training and has been used for this purpose ever since.

Bowersox's Church of the United Brethren in Christ in Centre Township

A United Brethren Church in Christ, sometimes called Bowersox's Church, was located about one-half mile from Ocker's Schoolhouse in Centre Township. The church was popularly referred to as "Die Darre Kaerrich" (The Tar Church) because its vertical weather-boarding was painted with coal tar. It was called the Bowersox's Church after John Bowersox, the owner of the farm on which the church was located. The building was removed in 1894 and the material was used in the erection of an addition to the Evangelical Church at Penns Creek. The church never had a cemetery of its own. Burials were made at Erdley's, Middleburg, or Penns Creek.

The Pine Swamp United Brethren Church

The Pine Swamp United Brethren Church, originally an Evangelical Church, was a log building located near Shellenberger's mill on Mahantango Creek near Richfield. Its cemetery was known as the Pine Swamp Church Cemetery. The church building was located on the corner of the cemetery ground. When the church was abandoned, a new United Brethren Church was erected in Richfield in 1876.

The Oriental Church of the Brethren or Dunkard Church

The church building is situated about one mile north-east of the village of Oriental in West Perry Township. The church building was constructed in 1876 and is still standing, but has not been used since 1939. A small cemetery adjoins the church building.

Abandoned Burial Places in the County

Beaver Springs

The first cemetery in the vicinity of the present town of Beaver Springs was located one-half mile north-east of the town. The cemetery was located on a rising piece of ground some years before the town was laid out in 1806, probably about 1790. Years ago the headstones were removed, the land was plowed, and no trace of the cemetery is left.

What is today known as the Old Cemetery was laid out in 1810 or 1811. In this cemetery are found the graves of Adam Rager (1749-1826) and his wife, Charlotte (1757-1832), of John Middleswarth (1744-1815) and his wife, Martha (1750-1824), and of John Jacob Aigler (1752-1811) and his wife, Christina (1758-1817). John Jacob Aigler was probably the first person to be buried there. A headstone of another grave contains the quaint inscription, copied verbatim:

Here lies the body of Maria Snook which was John Snook's wife. She was born, January 26, 1778. She brought to this world six sons and four daters. Died, August, 1814.

No burials have taken place in the old cemetery since about 1898.

Herrold's Graveyard

Herrold's graveyard is located in Union Township, a short distance south of the town of Port Trevorton, along the Susquehanna Trail where the river makes an S-shaped turn. This is below the three Herrold stone houses, a short distance back from the trail, and facing the Herrold schoolhouse. It is a very old burial ground. It is definitely known that burials were made there as early as 1810, and probably as early as 1775. In it are buried members of the Herrold family and soldiers of the Revolutionary War. The graves were marked for many years by old rough stones but were without any inscriptions.

In 1937 a memorial service was held at the place in which was unveiled a marker in the form of a huge boulder taken from the river near Chapman. This marker bore a bronze tablet giving a brief history of the soldier and pioneer, John George Herrold. Markers were also placed on the graves of John George Herrold, Junior, Philip Brubaker, John Nichols Strawser, Casper Reed, and Captain Simon Herrold, all of whom were Revolutionary War soldiers. The place was used for burial purposes up to about 1885.

Adjoining the Herrold graveyard, but separated from it by a wire fence, is an Indian burial ground. Maintaining separate burial grounds for people of different nationalities was in line with the generally accepted practice of not burying Indians and whites in the same cemetery, although the Old Mennonite graveyard near Pomfret Castle seems to have been a marked exception. In the Indian graveyard, adjoining the graves of the white settlers, is buried an old but friendly Indian by the name of Long John because of his abnormal height of seven feet and ten inches. His grave is marked by two sandstones. Tradition has it that this Indian served as a soldier under an assumed name in both the Colonial and Revolutionary Wars. Long John was probably the last surviving Indian in that area. He died about 1800. It is said that he always regretted that he never married. The reason for his non-marriage was probably the fact that there were no Indian women around there anymore and the white settlers frowned on a white woman marrying an Indian, although the reverse was socially accepted. Captain Thomas McKee of McKees Half Falls married an Indian woman, and there may probably be some reason for believing that Conrad Weiser's wife was an Indian.

Zion's Church Cemetery Near Freeburg

One of the oldest burial grounds in the county is the Zion's Church graveyard, one mile north of Freeburg. A grant of land of forty-two acres was given to Andrew Morr, Casper Roush, and Peter Straub, in 1770, for the erection of a Lutheran Church and for a burial ground. Many of the early settlers of Freeburg and vicinity are buried there.

The Old Lutheran or Union Cemetery in Selinsgrove

This cemetery was begun about the year 1780. It is located in the rear of the First Lutheran Church, on the north-east corner of High and Bough Streets. Many of the pioneers of this region are buried there. Among the prominent people buried there may be mentioned Governor Simon Snyder, governor of Pennsylvania for three consecutive terms (1808-1817); Conrad Weiser, Junior (1749-1803), a son of the interpreter, whose grave is located in the south-east corner of the cemetery; and Colonel Peter Hosterman (1746-1805), a very distinguished man of his day.

The Swineford Cemetery

The cemetery is located at the southern portion of the town, on

the east side of the public road leading to Mt. Pleasant Mills. It appears to have been in general use for burial purposes for many years, but was abandoned nearly a hundred years ago. On it was the noted Kreamer-Evans Family plot in which were buried the Honorable George Kremer; Catherine Kremer, his wife; Captain Frederick Evans, father-in-law of George Kremer; Anna, wife of Captain Evans; and George, son of George and Catherine Kremer. In 1907 these bodies, buried in the family plot, were moved to the Glendale Cemetery. Other persons buried there were George Swineford (1758-1812), Albrecht Schweinforth (1728-1810), and Johannes Schweinford (1758-1805).

Brubaker Cemetery

The cemetery was abandoned about the year 1900. It is located on a hill in Union Township, west of the Susquehanna Trail, near Ulsh's Hatchery below Port Trevorton. The cemetery is about twelve square rods in area and is a part of the Daniel Brubaker farm. It is overgrown with brush, sumac, and briers.

Kramer Private Cemetery in Chapman Township

The cemetery is located on Cloyd Houseworth's farm, formerly the John Rine farm, directly east of Hall's Church. It contains eighteen graves. It is about twelve square rods in area.

Rine and Sechrist Private Cemetery in Chapman Township

It is located on the road from Rohrer's schoolhouse to Hoffer, about one-half mile from the Susquehanna Trail. It is much overgrown with brush, sumac, and briers. It contains seven marked graves and twelve unmarked graves.

The Sechrist Private Cemetery

It is located on a farm directly east of Mahantango Creek. It can be reached by an unimproved road located on the north side of the Mahantango Gas Station. It is located on Cloyd Swineford's farm in Chapman Township.

Mennonite Cemetery, Near Strouptown, in Perry Township

The grave stones in this cemetery are moss covered, the inscriptions are in German, and are very difficult to read.

Hummel's and Hartman's Cemeteries

These two private cemeteries are located along the public road from Selinsgrove to Shamokin Dam. Hummel's Cemetery is located in Monroe Township, and Hartman's Cemetery is located within the borough limits of Shamokin Dam.

New Lutheran Cemetery in Selinsgrove

This cemetery is located within the borough limits of Selinsgrove. It is no longer used for burial purposes. Among the prominent Selinsgrove residents buried in it may be mentioned: Captain Anthony Selin, founder of Selinsgrove; Mary Selin, wife of Anthony Selin; Mary Michaels Snyder, wife of the governor; John Snyder, son of the governor; Major Henry W. Snyder, son of the governor; Captain Charles S. Davis; James K. Davis, Senior; Reverend Peter Born; John App; Samuel Alleman, Esquire; George Schnure; and J. G. L. Schindel.

The Portzline Cemetery

The Portzline Cemetery is located on the north side of the road,

along the hillside, between the St. Thomas United Brethren Church and the village of Meiserville, or about one mile west of Meiserville, in Perry Township. It is a very old cemetery founded prior to 1800, probably about 1775. It hasn't been used for burial purposes for many years and in consequence has not received any care. The grounds are overgrown with brush so that the cemetery itself can be located only with considerable difficulty. About 1899, according to Wagenseller's Tombstone Inscriptions in Snyder County, there were twenty-six marked graves and one hundred unmarked graves in the cemetery. The markers are of the flagstone and marble variety. Many of the flagstone markers have no inscriptions at all. Members of the Gellnett, Limbert, Portzline, and Shetterly families are buried there. Probably the most noted person buried in it is Francis Portzline, a noted scholar, artist, business man, and school teacher. He was a native of Germany who came to America in the days of the Revolutionary War, landed at Baltimore, and made his way to Mahantango Township, later Perry Township.

The Smithgrove Graveyard (Kreamer)

This graveyard is located a short distance east of the village in Middlecreek Township. It contains the graves of Jacob A. Smith and members of the Smith family, and members of about a half-dozen other families.

The Old Mennonite Graveyard

This graveyard is located about one-half mile east of Richfield near the "Crossroads" Mennonite Church. It may have been started about the year 1785. It contains the graves of John Graybill (1735-1806), the oldest settler in that community, and those of many other Mennonites and Indians..

Religious Disciplines in the Churches

A century ago much attention was given to the disciplinary side of church life; today that aspect of church administration is practically disregarded. These early church disciplines occurred during the period when it was the socially accepted practice to mete out punishment to church members for conduct unbecoming professing Christians. Ecclesiastical judicatory bodies and church boards did not hesitate to take cognizance of infractions of church doctrine, rules, and regulations. In fact, church bodies believed it their sacred duty to use corrective measures such as were thought necessary to keep church members in "the straight and narrow way". Discipline cases of the laity were quite common in many of the churches of the county during the middle half of the nineteenth century. By the close of the century, church discipline cases practically disappeared altogether. The prevalence of discipline cases at that time ought not to be interpreted as an indication of more legalism, intolerance, controversy, and wrong-doing in those times.

Severe discipline for misconduct represented the

spirit of that era. Not alone were rigid disciplinary measures restricted to ecclesiastical transgressions; they were applied with equal diligence to violations in the educational, social, and the civic fields. Corporal punishment was the generally accepted, universal mode of discipline in the school, and public whippings, public reproofs, the stocks and the pillory, and even public hangings were meted out in an unmitigated fashion to all violators of common and statute law. Harsh penalties even for minor offenses were believed to drive the fear of God, the fear of the church, and the fear of the law into the hearts of the offender. But standards of conduct change with the changing years. Behavior that deserves discipline in one age is often considered innocent frivolity in the succeeding age.

What effect these early spiritual controls actually had upon the character of wayward church members must ever remain in the realm of conjecture. There seems to be no way of knowing the facts. Scientific measurements of quantitative and qualitative personality changes were unknown in that day nor could they have been effectively employed in the lives of the disciplinary cases. One is led to believe, however, that these moral suasions, public admonitions and reproofs, public confessions and declarations of repentance, and the extreme penalties in the nature of suspensions from church privileges and excommunications proved to be a restraining influence in the lives of many people. This can be particularly true in a day when ignorance and fear had a much stronger hold on the masses than they have today. It was a day when local government was rather weak and was badly in need of strengthening by local supporting institutions. No doubt the church at times usurped certain political and civil rights, which under more favorable conditions, would better have been left where they rightfully belonged. Beyond the shadow of a doubt, these early church disciplines were far better than no church discipline at all. If the church was too exacting in these early days, it is certainly too lax in these latter days. The writer has not observed any church discipline cases during the past fifty years (1890-1940) that in any way parallel those of the previous half-century.

The number of discipline cases in some of the churches greatly exceeded those in others. Whether some congregations were more worldly, and therefore furnished

more discipline cases than others, or whether some of the congregations were more strict in administering disciplines, or some pastors were more zealous than others, we have no means of knowing. Judging human nature as it really is, I am much disposed to believe that the individual differences which existed among these denominations resulted from the administering of the rules of discipline of the church, and not from any differences in the conduct of the members. A careful examination of the records, however, gives the impression that some of the churches were more disposed to take cognizance of what may be considered trivial or even innocent cases, but of the nature and extent of the penalties administered, very little if any fault can be found with them. The church evidently had a passion to exact from the members what was considered Christian conduct at the time, and was courageous enough to enforce its demands.

The Basis of Church Discipline

The rules that have made possible church discipline have been obtained for the most part from the Holy Scriptures. The parable of the wheat and the tares teaches that mere men are incapable of separating the good people from the bad, and hence the church inevitably has both kinds in its membership. This means that the faults of the few must be borne by the many with a charity "that covereth a multitude of sins". While Jesus was long-suffering and patient with the sinner, he nevertheless did not hesitate to admonish the wrong-doer. In fact he definitely countenanced disciplinary measures. Listen to his own words: "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

Each congregation had very largely its own rules and disciplines, prepared by the official board, and then made a part of the church constitution by the vote of the congregation. Each rule usually was amply supported by passages from the Bible. Some of these regulations follow:

1. Church members should practice self-denial. Matthew 16:24.
2. Church members are required to abstain from the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:19-21.
3. Church members are to abstain from things fre-

quently or generally associated with or leading to evil. I Thessalonians 5:22.

4. Church members should abstain from all things that may be the occasion of offense or stumbling to others. Romans 14:15.

5. Church members are amenable to the official boards and must appear before them when cited, and submit to the discipline of the church when regularly administered. Matthew 18:17.

6. Church members should lead a holy and pious life, attend public worship and the meetings of prayer regularly, and give heed to the ordinances of the church. Hebrews 10:25.

The Purpose of Church Discipline

Church discipline had three primary purposes: to reform the sinner, to prevent the ruin of the many by the vicious example of the few, and to preserve the order of the church. Church discipline was considered necessary to attain and to maintain the spiritual goodness of the church. Inasmuch as the Christian church is made up of human beings who are weak and susceptible to many temptations, church discipline was a means of self-protection. The nature of the church demands discipline, the teachings of Christ call for it, and the apostolic precepts require it.

Who Shall Have the Power to Discipline

Invariably the church rules and regulations stated that the official board of the church should have the power to enforce the discipline of the church against all members whose conduct did not agree with their Christian profession or who held to fundamental errors about church doctrine. This board was delegated with the power to cite such church members to appear before it, and to call witnesses so as to arrive at a just decision. When an accused church member was found guilty, the official board was required to admonish him, to suspend him, or to excommunicate him in accordance with the rules of the congregation and the precepts of the New Testament. Any suspended or excommunicated church member might be restored by the board to all the privileges of which he had been deprived providing he gave satisfactory evidence of sorrow for his transgression.

Ways and Means of Church Discipline

The procedure employed by the churches to administer discipline was always copied from the Holy Scriptures. For instance:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Matthew 18:15-17.

In accordance with these instructions, the first step in applying discipline to the sinner was private admonition, then admonition in the presence of two or three witnesses, and finally admonition by the church as an institution. In other words no church members were to be subjected to public accusation until private admonition had repeatedly failed. Private offenses had to be settled privately if at all possible. Public sins like heresy, blasphemy, schism, perjury, adultery, theft, violence, fraud, cruelty, contentiousness, intemperance, falsehood, profanation of the Sabbath, scoffing at religion, and such cases merited exclusion from the congregation. Defendants were always entitled to a fair and impartial trial, which was commonly conducted in public, and whose outcome was formally reported to the congregation. The names of persons excommunicated were publicly announced from the pulpit. Such an extreme penalty was very seldom administered and then only in a special case. This pronouncement against a church member could rightfully be performed only by the congregation with the sanction of the pastor, and after a majority action of the officers in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the church and the Holy Scriptures. It was possible for an accused church member to make an appeal from the decision of the official board or of the congregation to a higher authority such as the Synod or Conference.

Some Examples of Church Discipline

The minutes of the official boards indicate that much time must have been spent in the investigation of alleged misconduct and in the administration of penalties. In their annual reports, the ministers frequently complained about the lack of spirituality among the members. One

minister in 1879 stated that "the church very much needs reviving, dancing and other forms of worldliness and drunkenness, being more indulged than ever before since I am your pastor".

One of the common regulations was "when a church member showed continued indifference by neglecting to contribute, or to commune, or to attend the services, for the space of two years, when able to do so, he shall be dropped from the membership roll after having been duly admonished". Because of the number of delinquents, the official boards ordered frequent revisions of the membership rolls. In August, 1880, a certain pastor presented a list of thirty-three members who were to be dropped for negligence in taking communion and in performing their church duties. A common charge against members was "prolonged continuous absence from public worship and persistent neglect of the means of grace with which members voluntarily connected themselves". Pastors repeatedly warned their members that "if they didn't repent of their sins, cease continuous absence from public worship when able to do so, quit their indifference, and support the church financially and otherwise, they would forfeit their church membership".

The official board of the church was the initial judicial and executive power in all cases of church discipline. It considered first the rumors in circulation in the community against the church member, and only when there seemed to be sufficient evidence to indicate guilt, was the accused asked to appear before the board. Rumors were investigated by a committee of the board, by the pastor of the church, or by the pastor and a member of the board. Sometimes the accused was interviewed with respect to reports of unchristian conduct, and not always with satisfying results. The charges were usually couched in general terms such as "conduct unbecoming a church member, gross immorality, unchristian behavior, misdemeanor and irregular conduct, intemperate habits, the non-payment of debts, carrying on a worldly business on a Sabbath, untruthfulness or utter worldliness".

A few examples of discipline cases follow:

DRUNKENNESS. This was by far the most frequent accusation in all cases of discipline brought before the official board. When the accused admitted his guilt and

promised to mend his ways, he was admonished and his membership was continued. In 1878 two church members were notified to appear before the official board to answer charges of "drunkenness and unrestrained profanity on the streets and elsewhere". They humbly confessed their guilt and formally resolved by the grace of God to live a true Christian life. Their church-membership was continued. As late as 1893 a certain man who requested church membership was informed by the official board that "as soon as you cease selling strong drink and comply with the regulations of the church we shall gladly receive you into church membership". In 1844 a certain member who had already been repeatedly admonished for his intemperance, and who had treated the admonition of the pastor entirely disrespectfully, was excommunicated by the official board of the church. In 1875 a member was brought before the official board of the church for filing an application for a license to sell liquor. Another member was summoned before the board for holding a license to sell liquor, but instead of appearing, he sent a "most insulting and defiant letter". He was expelled from church membership, and the pastor made a public announcement of the action from the pulpit.

PROFANITY AND SABBATH-BREAKING. In 1850 a communicant was requested to appear to answer charges of profanity, Sabbath-breaking, and other unchristian behavior. He appeared and confessed his faults. He was forgiven with the understanding that if he would transgress again, the discipline of the church would be imposed against him. In the same year, another member was warned by the board and the pastor about card-playing on the Sabbath. Upon failing to heed the admonition given privately, he was requested to appear before the official board. He declined to comply, and was suspended from the privileges of the church until such a time as he would report and do better. Still another was summoned to answer accusations of profanity, neglecting to attend services, and disorderly conduct. He acknowledged the charges, confessed his sins, and promised to lead a better life. His membership was continued.

DANCING. Several young men were taken to task for attending a dancing school during the winter months of 1878. The following letter was sent them by the pastor of the church:

The duty of the official board is to look after the welfare of this church of which you are members. We are grieved that the spirit of worldliness is manifesting itself in the church, and just now especially in the worldly amusement of dancing. All experience shows that it has a tendency to draw the heart away from God and to lower piety. It detracts from your own good influence, and the power of any church that gives it countenance. We desire your own welfare and that of the church, and therefore affectionately urge you to consider that our Savior bids us denying ourselves, and not to seek pleasures that are not for our own good or that of His cause. We are to avoid the very appearance of evil. We promised to be obedient to Christ when we joined the church, and we ought especially to obey in denying ourselves and avoid giving offense, and you know that the pastor and the board, and many others of the best members of the church are grieved over this worldly amusement of dancing. We ask you to consider yourselves anew to God and to live alone for his glory and to abstain from everything that is not for the honor of God, especially this worldly amusement of dancing. May God give you grace to act in accordance with his will and glory is our prayer.

In February, 1891, the official board of the same church issued a declaration relative to its position on dancing. The resolutions condemned "masquerade dancing on prayer-meeting nights, considered dancing as an improper pastime, deplored all such conduct unworthy and unbecoming the profession of Christians, and exhorted all church members to abstain from such worldliness". Three hundred copies of the resolution together with the Standard of Discipline of the Church were printed and distributed among the members.

UNTRUTHFULNESS. In May, 1877, a woman was summoned before the board of the church to answer charges of lying about other people. She was to mend her ways which she promised to do. She was given a probationary period to demonstrate the truthfulness of her promises. In another case, public rumor had it that a certain physician could no longer be believed on his oath. The pastor of the church to which he belonged appointed a committee of three members of the congregation to make an investigation of the accusation, and to report to the church board within two weeks. The committee consulted mechanics, merchants, and residents who knew the doctor, but no one was willing to charge him with any lack of integrity. In December, 1845, the minutes of the board of one church gave the names of six members who were stricken from the membership roll "for absenting

themselves and for speaking evil of members, and for other reasons”.

GROSS IMMORALITY. The official board of one church met to take action on the rumor that an elder of the congregation had been accused of gross immorality. The elder failed to appear and to answer the charges against him. Upon being notified a second time, he again refused to appear. The church board finally decided to excommunicate him. About the same time, the boards of the congregations of a charge met for the purpose of investigating a rumor about immoral relations between the pastor and two women of the church. The pastor fled the community before the investigation got under way. The women testified under oath that the rumors were absolutely without foundation, and the matter was dropped. A young woman member of the same congregation became the mother of an illegitimate child. She was suspended from all church privileges until some such time as she showed true repentance.

DISOBEYING CHURCH REGULATIONS. A member of a certain church was requested to appear before the official board to answer four charges:

1. Holding meetings for the reading of the Scriptures and for exhorting contrary to the rules of the church, after having been repeatedly warned not to do so. The real reason, however, was that “the man was considered not the proper person to hold such meetings”.
2. Speaking disrespectfully and in an unchristian manner of his pastor when holding such meetings.
3. Playing dance tunes on his violin on week-day evenings.
4. Being untruthful in reference to the candidates for whom he had voted in the previous gubernatorial and presidential elections. At one time he declared he had voted for certain candidates, and then again for other candidates.

The man was found guilty of the first three counts and agreed to cease his activities. The last charge was never fully investigated, and was finally dropped as not being of sufficient importance. The church board, however, decided that he would have to acknowledge his wrong-doing if he wished to continue his membership. He evidently refused, since his name no longer appeared on the membership roll.

MISCELLANEOUS. Two members were notified to appear before the church board to answer charges alleged

against them; unless they would give satisfactory evidence of sincere repentance, they would be denied the privilege of the communion. One of them made an open confession and was admitted to the communion; the other was unwilling to do so and was banned.

Churches often had a rule to the effect that it was "the expressed duty of every church member to prevent, whenever possible, brother from going to law with a brother". Frequently the church boards served in the capacity of peacemakers when feelings of animosity existed among the members. Estranged persons were requested to meet with the official board in order to effect a reconciliation by acknowledging their faults, by begging one another's forgiveness, and by resolving to live as brethren in Christ. It has to be said to the everlasting credit of church boards that, while they were exacting in the administration of the rules and disciplines, they were also considerate and forgiving in their treatment of accused fellow Christians. Whatever mistakes they made arose principally from an over-zealous spirit in behalf of the welfare of the church. When the investigation revealed that the charges were without foundation, the accused was exculpated without reservation. When a member who had been previously expelled for cause made application for re-admission to membership, humbly acknowledged his sins, and expressed a firm resolve by the grace of God to live a Christian life, he was received again into the fellowship of the church.

CONCLUSION. During the past fifty years, church discipline has largely fallen into disuse. The reasons are not hard to find. In course of time the church became lax through the admission to membership of the more worldly-minded. During these years church membership changed as well as the church itself. The church today prefers to depend on the preaching of the word and the consciences of the members. Trials of heresy within the memory of people still living have been abortive because of the liberty guaranteed in a democratic society. Many of the cases that formerly occupied the attention of church authorities have now been taken over by the civil authorities. Church members are not disposed to sit in judgment over their fellowmen in matters essentially moral and spiritual. Sympathetic radiation is too strong to make rigid discipline effective and practical in this age.

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CHAPTER 24

Auxiliary Church Organizations in the County

And what does the Lord require of thee, but to do
justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
Micah 6:8

The Sunday Schools of the County

The First Sunday School in the County

The widow of Governor Simon Snyder lived in Selinsgrove from the time of the death of her husband in 1819 until 1822 when she moved back to her former home in Harrisburg. While she resided in the mansion in Selinsgrove, a young woman by the name of Ann Kittera of Philadelphia, the daughter of the Honorable John Wilkes Kittera of Lancaster and a sister of the wife of John Snyder, the son of the governor, visited her. During her stay in Selinsgrove, Miss Kittera, a Presbyterian, with Mrs. Simon Snyder, an Episcopalian, organized the first Sunday School in this section of the state. This Sunday School was organized in the Lutheran and Reformed Church, on the corner of Market and Bough Streets, now the First Lutheran Church. Mrs. Snyder was one of the first teachers in the Sunday School. The place of meeting of this union Sunday School was at first in the octagonal-shaped school-house popularly called the "Pepper-Box"; in 1839, the Sunday School met in the log school-house located on the site of the present school building on West Pine Streets; and finally in 1843 it met in the Evangelical Lutheran and German Reformed Church building on the northwest corner of Market and Bough Streets. The centennial anniversary of the founding of the first Sunday School was celebrated* Sunday, May 1, 1921, in the First Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove, with appropriate services, both morning and evening.

The Extension of the Sunday School Through the County

Beginning with the year 1821, the Sunday School movement spread through this portion of the state. The following incident shows just exactly how it worked. Among the first pupils who attended this first Sunday School in Selinsgrove was a little girl by the name of Lydia Houtz who walked one and one-half miles each Sunday from her farm home to attend Sunday School, and

*H. Harvey Schoch's Centennial History of the First Lutheran Sunday School of Selinsgrove.

never missed a single session, except when sick, in seven years. This person years later became known as Mrs. Lydia Houtz Schoch (1812-1902), the wife of John A. Schoch (1808-1863), and lived in what is now known as Franklin Township on a farm about three miles west of Middleburg. Here she organized, May 10, 1846, the first Sunday School in that section. The school had forty-eight pupils and nine teachers with herself serving as the superintendent. The Sunday School was held in a school house erected on the Schoch farm by her husband and interested neighbors. In this building during the weekdays of the winter months was conducted what was then known as a "subscription school" from which income the expenses of the school were met. At this early date, Sunday Schools and Church services were conducted in schoolhouses, barns, the homes of the people, and often in the open air in a grove.

About the middle of the nineteenth century, the Sunday School Movement got under way in this area on a rather extensive scale. At the time there was considerable opposition to the Sunday School on the grounds that it might prove detrimental to the work of the church. On the other hand, congregations, here and there, placed themselves on record as encouraging the organization of Sunday Schools. In the constitution of one of the older churches of the county, a section states specifically that the church council "**shall use its influence to establish as many Sunday Schools within the bounds of the parish as will be thought necessary to bring all the children under Sabbath School instruction**". The first Sunday School in New Berlin was organized in 1837. A Sunday School was organized in the Salem Lutheran and Reformed Church in 1840. A Sunday School was organized in the Freeburg Lutheran and Reformed Church in the same year. The first Sunday School in Beaver Springs was organized in 1845. A Sunday School existed in the Kissimmee United Brethren Church in Centre Township prior to 1871. A Sunday School was organized in the Middleburg Evangelical Church in 1880.

These were the pioneer Sunday Schools of the county. The first Sunday Schools were quite different from the Sunday Schools of today. They had no regularly elected superintendent. The work of the superintendent was done by a number of persons serving in turn. The literature consisted of the Bible, Speller, and a Primer. The

Bible was used by those who were able to read, and all the others had the Speller and Primer. Tickets were used as an incentive to regular attendance. One blue ticket was given each Sunday for attendance. Three blue tickets were required for one red ticket. These red tickets could be exchanged for cards, a library book, or a Bible. A red ticket had a value of one cent, and the exchange value was made on that basis.

Sunday School Statistics for the County (1891-1946)*

	1891	1902-03	1912-13	1922-23	1932-33	1942-43	1945-46
Total Sunday Schools	72	85	80	72	70	71	71
Officers and Teachers	1,071	1,215	1,146	891	861	951	1,107
Pupil Enrollment	6,956	8,343	9,198	8,250	8,960	8,408	9,088
Total Enrollment	8,027	9,558	10,344	9,141	9,821	9,359	10,195
Accessions to the Church from the Sunday School		148	186	269	170	208	283
Per Cent of Pop. of State enrolled in Sunday School		22	26	25	23	19	18
Pop. of State for nearest Census Year	5,258,113	6,302,116	7,665,111	8,720,017	9,631,350	9,900,180	9,900,180
Per cent of Pop. of County enrolled Sunday School	46	55	61	53	52	46	50
Pop. of County for nearest Census Year	17,651	17,304	16,800	17,129	18,836	20,208	20,208
Total Church Membership of the County						8,466	9,290

*Compiled from the Year Books of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association.

The County Sabbath School Association

The Sunday School work in Snyder County as an organized county movement began May 20, 1871, just seventy-seven years ago. On that day, ministers, Sunday School Superintendents, Sunday School Teachers, parents, and people interested in Sunday School work generally met in the courthouse in Middleburg and organized the Snyder County Sabbath School Association. The chief promoters of this movement were among the most distinguished Sunday School and Church leaders of the county in that day. Among these people may be men-

tioned such men as Dr. Peter Born of the Missionary Institute; Professor William Moyer, County Superintendent of Schools; Professor William Noetling, Principal of the Susquehanna Female College; Professor Daniel S. Boyer, Principal of the Freeburg Academy; The Reverend J. P. Shindel; The Reverend J. Y. Shindel; The Reverend R. H. Shindel; H. H. Grimm, Esquire; M. Luther Wagenseller; A. A. Carpenter; Calvin Moyer; Philip Moyer, Henry Brown; and many other persons throughout the county interested in church and Sunday School work.

At the called meeting May 20, 1871, a permanent organization was effected and a constitution and by-laws were adopted. Professor William Moyer was elected president and the Reverend R. H. Shindel, secretary. These officers were elected for one year. There were present forty-two delegates representing the townships of Beaver, Centre, Chapman, Franklin, Monroe, Penn, and Washington, and the boroughs of Selinsgrove and Middleburg. In addition to these delegates, a large number of citizens of the county without any official capacity were present indicating a rather strong countywide sentiment favorable to the movement. It was then decided that the annual county convention should be held on the third Tuesday of May of each year at such a place as may be agreed upon. Beavertown was chosen as the place for holding the annual convention the following year.

Because the May meeting was considered simply an organization meeting, it was decided to hold the first annual convention on October 27-28 of that year rather than wait until the following year. The convention met in the courthouse at Middleburg. The topics discussed at this first convention pertained primarily to the purposes of the Sunday School and of this newly-formed organization as well as the duties and responsibilities of the church people, ministers, and families toward them. At the fourth annual convention in 1874, the main topics were:

1. What constitutes a Christian?
2. What is the best method of conducting a Sunday School?
3. What is the aim of the Sunday School?
4. How can we secure and retain attendance in the Sunday Schools?

It is interesting to note that the addresses and discussions were frequently in the German language. It is even more interesting that at these early meetings, the members of the convention were arranged in sectional

meetings and were addressed by some Sunday School worker in either English or German as the people preferred. At the sixth annual convention in 1876, the program centered around the following topics:

1. What should be the program of a Sunday School session?
2. Are there any young persons in the county who have thus far not been brought into the Sunday School? If so, how may the Sunday School reach them?

Some of the thoughts and suggestions expressed may appear rather modern and progressive. The convention agreed that the instruction must be adapted to the growing minds and needs of the pupils, that personal efforts have to be employed, that nonattendance is probably the result of the depravity of the human heart as well as the imperfections of the Sunday School machinery, that the people irrespective of age are not too big to study the Bible, but the study of the Bible is often too big for many people, and that there is too much strife and bickering among the local denominations. The whole problem of attendance was deemed so important that the convention decided to hold a conference of the pastors and superintendents at Middleburg June 3, 1876, for the purpose of devising plans to improve the attendance. There was also manifested great concern about the lack of interest of church members in Sunday Schools.

The following questions show the nature of the program of the eighth annual convention in 1878:

1. What should be the order of the exercises, and to what extent should they be varied?
2. What are the important qualifications of the Sunday School Superintendent?
3. Should the pupils be required to memorize a portion of the lesson?
4. What constitutes a faithful Sunday School teacher?
5. What should be done with a negligent Sunday School teacher?
6. What is the best way to keep boys and girls between the ages of sixteen and eighteen in Sunday School?
7. Should Sunday School pupils be awarded prizes, tickets, et cetera?
8. What is the best method to introduce music into the Sunday School?
9. Is the Sunday School accomplishing its purpose?

At the tenth annual convention in 1880 the question box was introduced. Among the questions proposed were:

1. Are Sunday School conventions beneficial?
2. Should Sunday School picnics be encouraged?
3. What constitutes successful teaching in the Sunday School?
4. What kind of Sunday School helps should a teacher have?

5. What are the advantages and the disadvantages of the International Sunday School Lessons?
6. How should the quarterly review be conducted?
7. Should the holding of union Sunday Schools be encouraged?
8. How may the pastor be helpful to a Sunday School?
9. Can blackboards, charts, and lesson reviews be used successfully in all schools?
10. Can a teacher who indulges in worldly amusements such as cardplaying, dancing, attending parties and theatres, and who lives a life of gayety lead souls to Christ?
11. How long should the Sunday School session be?
12. How much of the Sunday School session should be devoted to the study of the lesson?

Space will not permit the use of any more of the special features of these annual county conventions. Generally speaking, the nature of the convention program continued very much the same for many years. The program usually centered around the teaching work of the church and the organization and the administration of the Sunday School. It couldn't very well have been otherwise. To be sure the professional nomenclature of the Sunday School work changed with the passing years, but, in the main, the same old problems persisted, and were discussed year in and year out, but with changing emphasis. The annual programs invariably emphasized the need of interest in the work of the Sunday School, reverence for the church and the Sabbath, the importance of memorizing Scripture, the relation of the family to the total church program, the place of missions in the Sunday School, the danger of the lesson leaflet superseding the use of the Bible as a book, the Sunday School contribution to good citizenship, and the need for good Sunday School libraries.

The principal addresses at the county convention were given and the discussions were led for the most part by members of the staff of the State Sabbath School Association. Among these speakers and leaders in the past years may be mentioned Martha Robinson, Mrs. J. W. Barnes, W. D. Reel, W. G. Landes, Amanda Landes, Maude Junkin Baldwin, George W. Wellburn, B. A. McGarvey, H. C. Cridland, M. Hadwin Fischer, Edward H. Bonsall, Conrad A. Hauser, Arthur L. Bodmer, and Walter E. Myers. All of them were generally accepted as authorities in their field and their presence at the county convention was welcomed. The State Association usually sent two of its staff to the county convention. Some local talent was always used.

The practice of appointing reporters for the different county papers had its beginning about the turn of the century. At this time temperance work was greatly stressed and an aggressive campaign was promulgated in favor of total abstinence from all intoxicating beverages. The signing of the pledge was emphasized in the Sunday Schools. A Temperance Superintendent was made a member of the county staff, and reports were made at the County Convention on the liquor situation in the county. At one of the conventions, the Temperance Superintendent reported that the greatest drawback to the work of temperance was that many Sunday School workers had their names on the license petitions of the hotel-keepers throughout the county. Much attention was paid to the Home Department work, Leadership Training, the need for the Cradle Roll, and the organization of adult Bible classes. District Sunday School conventions throughout the county were greatly emphasized and were given much encouragement. Efforts were made to make Snyder County a Front Line County in Sunday School work. To attain this coveted position, ten requirements had to be satisfied. In 1908 there were nine teacher training classes, seven Home Departments, and fourteen Cradle Rolls in the entire County. In 1909 Snyder County became one of the twelve counties of the state that qualified for Front Line rank. In that year fifty-seven per cent of the population of the county was enrolled in the Sunday School. In 1911, the percentage of enrollment had increased to sixty-two per cent. In 1908 the state pledge was raised from twenty-five to forty dollars annually. In 1909 it was raised to fifty dollars. Prior to this time, it appeared to be a common practice for a Sunday School to pay one dollar or even less to the work of the county. In 1928, the first County Leadership Training School was organized by the County Sabbath School Association under the jurisdiction of the International Council of Religious Education. The school sessions were held in the Middleburg High School building.

Despite the fact that considerable progress was in evidence, the work of the Sunday School in the county at times proved difficult and often very discouraging. The chief obstacle appeared to be the great indifference of the masses and the evident lack of interest in the work of the church and Sunday School. The press reports of the annual county conventions frequently state that

the convention was "well attended and spirited", or "attended only with some success", or "slimly attended with a lack of interest bordering on apathy". Frequent appeals were found necessary to have the Sunday Schools send delegates to the county convention. Frequently only about one-third of the schools of the county were represented at any one convention. The county secretary experienced much difficulty to secure the statistical reports from the different Sunday Schools. As late as 1913, the county secretary, Howard L. Romig, Beaver Springs, declared that he had traveled two days to get statistics at a cost of \$10.25, and then he added that if the thirty-two superintendents would each have taken ten minutes and one cent postage, he could have saved two days labor for himself and \$10.25 in money for the County Associations.

With the exception of the first convention in 1871 and the sixty-fifth convention in 1935, the county conventions have been held in the month of May up to the year 1941. It was then thought that the beginning of June was more suitable to school teachers and people generally, and the conventions since have been held at that time, in various places throughout the county. Despite the lack of transportation and communication forty and more years ago, the conventions at the time appeared to have been more largely attended than they are at the present day. The reasons for this are not hard to find. Meetings at that time were fewer in number, and when they were held, they were better attended. Sunday School conventions were social centers at that time almost as much as they were religious and educational centers. In these latter days of overemphasis of social life and organizations, one can scarcely expect to have everybody attend the County Sunday School Convention. Probably we can expect only those who are really interested in the work of the Sunday School and of the church.

During the seventy-five years of the existence of the Snyder County Sabbath School Association, its officers have been among the most outstanding church and Sunday School leaders of the county. For long and faithful service as the president of the association may be mentioned William Moyer, M. L. Wagenseller, Ner B. Middleswarth, John I. Woodruff, Thomas H. Speigelmire, Howard I. Romig, George E. Fisher, Ira G. Sanders, Henry Stetler, and H. Roy Smeltz. Howard I. Romig, Beaver Springs, is well remembered to this day for his long and efficient

service as the general secretary of the County Association. He served in that office from 1887 to 1923, when he was succeeded by Reide Bingaman of Beavertown, because of his promotion to the presidency of the association. He served as the president of the association up to 1925. Mr. Bingaman was succeeded in 1925 by Ira Lose as the secretary. Upon the death of Mr. Lose, The Reverend Herman G. Snyder became the general secretary who served from 1931 to 1942. The Reverend Herman G. Snyder was followed by Raymond Bailey and he in turn by Mrs. Rudolph Coleman.

Tabular Statement of Snyder County Sunday School Conventions

No.	Place of Meeting	Date of Meeting	President	Secretary
1.	Middleburg	October 27-28, 1871	William Moyer	Rev. R. H. Shindel
2.	Beavertown	May 6-7-8, 1872		
3.	Selinsgrove	May 20, 1873	William Noetling	M. L. Wagenseller
4.	Middleburg	May 19-20, 1874	Peter Born	M. L. Wagenseller
5.	Smithgrove	May 18-19, 1875	Rev. Z. Hornberger	M. L. Wagenseller
6.	Selinsgrove	May 16-17, 1876	Rev. D. Miller	M. L. Wagenseller
7.	Adamsburg	May 15-16, 1877	Rev. L. Reed	J. A. M. Zeigler
8.	Beavertown	May 21-22, 1878	Rev. I. Irvine	Calvin F. Moyer
9.	Selinsgrove	May 20-21, 1879	Rev. I. Irvine	Calvin F. Moyer
10.	Selinsgrove	May 18-19, 1880	Rev. H. B. Belmer	A. M. Carpenter
11.	Middleburg	May 11-12, 1881	Rev. J. W. Buckley	A. M. Carpenter
12.	Adamsburg	May 9-10-11, 1882	William Moyer	A. M. Carpenter
13.	Beavertown	May 16-17-18, 1883	William Moyer	A. M. Carpenter
14.	Selinsgrove	May 20-21, 1884	William Moyer	A. M. Carpenter
15.	Middleburg	May 19-20-21, 1885	A. M. Carpenter	Wm. K. Miller
16.	Adamsburg	May 17-18-19, 1886	A. M. Carpenter	M. L. Wagenseller
17.	Selinsgrove	May 17-18, 1887	A. M. Carpenter	M. L. Wagenseller
18.	Beavertown	May 21-22-23, 1888	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
19.	Kreamer	May 20-21-22, 1889	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
20.	McClure	May 19-20-21, 1890	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
21.	Adamsburg	May 18-19-20, 1891	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
22.	Middleburg	May 9-10-11, 1892	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
23.	Selinsgrove	May 8-9-10, 1893	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
24.	Beavertown	May 7-8-9, 1894	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
25.	Selinsgrove	May 11-12-13, 1895	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
26.	Adamsburg	May 11-12-13, 1896	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
27.	Shamokin Dam	May 10-11-12, 1897	William Moyer	H. I. Romig
28.	Middleburg	May 9-10, 1898	William Moyer	H. I. Romig
29.	Selinsgrove	May 8-9, 1899	William Moyer	H. I. Romig
30.	Freeburg	May 9-10, 1900	William Moyer	H. I. Romig
31.	Selinsgrove	May 8-9, 1901	William Moyer	H. I. Romig
32.	Beavertown	May 12-13-14, 1902	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
33.	McClure	May 11-12-13, 1903	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
34.	Selinsgrove	May 9-10-11, 1904	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
35.	Beaver Springs	May 8-9-10, 1905	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
36.	Shamokin Dam	May 13-14, 1906	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
37.	Troxelville	May 13-14, 1907	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
38.	Mt. Pleasant Mills	May 11-12, 1908	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
39.	Port Trevorton	May 10-11, 1909	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig

No.	Place of Meeting	Date of Meeting	President	Secretary
40.	Middleburg	May 9-10, 1910	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
41.	McClure	May 8-9, 1911	M. L. Wagenseller	H. I. Romig
42.	Paxtonville	May 13-14, 1912	Ner B. Middleswarth	H. I. Romig
43.	Freeburg	May 12-13, 1913	Ner B. Middleswarth	H. I. Romig
44.	Beavertown	May 11-12, 1914	Ner B. Middleswarth	H. I. Romig
45.	Kratzerville	May 10-11, 1915	Ner B. Middleswarth	H. I. Romig
46.	Selinsgrove	May 8-9, 1916	John I. Woodruff	H. I. Romig
47.	Beaver Springs	May 14-15, 1917	John I. Woodruff	H. I. Romig
48.	Middleburg	May 17-18, 1918	John I. Woodruff	H. I. Romig
49.	Beavertown	May 12-13, 1919	John I. Woodruff	H. I. Romig
50.	Kreamer	May 10-11, 1920	Thos. H. Speigelmire	H. I. Romig
51.	Selinsgrove	May 9-10, 1921	Thos. H. Speigelmire	H. I. Romig
52.	Shamokin Dam	May 8-9, 1922	Thos. H. Speigelmire	H. I. Romig
53.	Middleburg	May 7-8, 1923	H. I. Romig	Reide Bingaman
54.	Beavertown	May 12-13, 1924	H. I. Romig	Reide Bingaman
55.	Freeburg	May 10-11, 1925	H. I. Romig	Reide Bingaman
56.	Troxelville	May 11-12, 1926	Thos. H. Speigelmire	Ira Lose
57.	McClure	May 9-10, 1927	Thos. H. Speigelmire	Ira Lose
58.	Beaver Springs	May 7-8, 1928	George E. Fisher	Ira Lose
59.	Shamokin Dam	May 1-2, 1929	George E. Fisher	Ira Lose
60.	Middleburg	May 7-8, 1930	George E. Fisher	Ira Lose
61.	Kratzerville	May 6-7, 1931	Ira G. Sanders	Ira Lose
62.	Selinsgrove	May 3-4, 1932	Ira G. Sanders	H. G. Snyder
63.	McClure	May 2-3, 1933	Ira G. Sanders	H. G. Snyder
64.	Freeburg	May 1-2, 1934	Ira G. Sanders	H. G. Snyder
65.	Beaver Springs	Apr. 29-30, 1935	H. Roy Smeltz	H. G. Snyder
66.	Troxelville	May 7-8, 1936	H. Roy Smeltz	H. G. Snyder
67.	Port Trevorton	May 6-7, 1937	H. Roy Smeltz	H. G. Snyder
68.	Paxtonville	May 5-6, 1938	H. Roy Smeltz	H. G. Snyder
69.	Mt. Pleas't Mills	May 4-5, 1939	Henry G. Stetler	H. G. Snyder
70.	Middleburg	May 2-3, 1940	Henry G. Stetler	H. G. Snyder
71.	McClure	June 5-6, 1941	H. Roy Smeltz	H. G. Snyder
72.	Beaver Springs	June 4-5, 1942	H. Roy Smeltz	Raymond Bailey
73.	Paxtonville	June 4, 1943	H. Roy Smeltz	Raymond Bailey
74.	Middleburg	June 2, 1944	H. Roy Smeltz	Raymond Bailey
75.	Kreamer	June 8, 1945	H. Roy Smeltz*	Mrs. R. Coleman
76.	Freeburg	June 13, 1946	H. Roy Smeltz	Mrs. R. Coleman
77.	Kratzerville	June 12, 1947	Wilmer Hackenberg	Mrs. R. Coleman
78.	Middleburg	June 17, 1948	Wilmer Hackenberg	Grace Snook

* Officers are elected at one convention to serve until the close of the next convention.

The County Christian Endeavor Society

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor is a comparatively young organization as auxiliary church organizations go in the county. Since the Sunday School had its beginning in the mind and heart of one man in England, just so the Christian Endeavor Society had its beginning in one person in America. Robert Raikes saw young boys wander about aimlessly in the alleys and streets of London, indulging in vice and forms of conduct that proved destructive and harmful. He had a passion to do something wholesome and helpful for them, and

so he invited them to meet with him on Sundays to engage them in more worthwhile activities. This resulted in a special school for instruction in reading and the church catechism. In this way the great modern Sunday School Movement had its humble beginning.

In like manner, the Christian Endeavor Society was launched in America as a great interdenominational movement in 1881 by The Reverend Francis E. Clark, pastor of the Williston Congregational Church of Portland, Maine. The Christian Endeavor Society was organized to provide opportunities to new converts of the Christian faith for Christian service in the work and program of the Christian church. Both the Sunday School and the Christian Endeavor have grown out of the work of one man into great international and interdenominational organizations. Neither organization was founded to take the place of the church nor to operate in competition with the church, but rather to supplement and reinforce the work and program of the church. In other words, such auxiliary organizations were formed primarily to utilize the latent energies of their members in activating the program of the Christian church. The Christian Endeavor was originally designed as a training department preparatory to the purpose and work of the church.

The Christian Endeavor Society is not an organization of any particular denomination. Like the Sunday School, the Christian Endeavor is interdenominational. It was years before the Sunday School was accepted by all the churches as worthy of support as a county and state movement. Today the Sunday Schools of the county, for the most part, are co-operating in the program of the County Sabbath School Association, but the Christian Endeavor Societies of the county are not by any means participating to the same extent in the program of the County Christian Endeavor Organization. Before this will be possible, there will have to be a better understanding and a more sympathetic relationship by many more of the denominations and individual churches of the county. Much of the indifference toward the Christian Endeavor work lies in the lack of a sympathetic and appreciative understanding of the program of the Christian Endeavor Society. The four cardinal principals of Christian Endeavor work are: (1) open confession of Christ, (2) active service for Christ, (3) loyalty to Christ's Church, (4) fellowship with Christian people.

The Christian Endeavor Society was first organized in 1881 in Portland, Maine, and within a few years, the movement had already spread to Snyder County. As early as 1884, there existed an organization in the Trinity Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove by the name of "The Social Union of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove". Its purpose was to improve the social and spiritual life of its members as well as to afford them some needed training in Christian stewardship. M. A. Miller served as the president of this organization and E. E. Duck as the secretary. This organization had a constitution of its own instead of the regular Christian Endeavor Constitution and did not use the regular Christian Endeavor pledge. When this organization was disbanded a few years later, the pastor of the church aimed to meet the needs of the young people through meetings of the older members of the catechetical classes on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons. This state of affairs did not continue long. When a need for an organization persists, it will not be long until such an organization is formed to meet the particular need.

In 1888 a new organization was effected by the catechetical class with B. Meade Wagenseller, president, and Nellie O. Forgy, secretary, for the purpose of uniting the young people in a concerted effort for training in service for the work of the church. This new organization was called the Christian Endeavor Society. Its general purpose was devotion to Christ and loyalty to the Lutheran Church. A re-organization of this society followed in 1891 with the slogan "Christ and the Church". The regular Christian Endeavor Program was now adopted in full, and the Christian Endeavor Society pledge was taken by its members.

In October, 1891, a Junior Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized by two members of the Senior Society. A constitution was adopted and two leaders were chosen to conduct the meetings of the organization each Sunday afternoon. In 1893 a new constitution was adopted and a more aggressive program was put into operation. For the worship part of this program, Scripture verses were recited, church hymns were sung, extemporaneous prayers were spoken, the books of the Bible were learned, and selected portions of the Holy Scriptures such as the commandments, the Beatitudes,

and some of the Psalms were memorized. The committees of the organization at the time were the prayer-meeting, lookout, flower, sunshine, and book committees. The members were instructed in the meaning of the Christian Endeavor pledge and the responsibility attached in assuming it for themselves. Monthly meetings of a business and literary nature were conducted. The membership in 1894 was about seventy. From 1891 to 1893, C. P. Bastian, Nellie O. Forgy, and H. Q. Shadle served as presidents. So far as known, the Christian Endeavor Society of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove, was the first society of its kind organized in Snyder County.

Other Christian Endeavor Societies soon followed. In 1894 a Christian Endeavor Society was organized in Adamsburg. In 1895 another one was organized in Rowe's Lutheran and Reformed Church at Salem. By 1897, there were Christian Endeavor Societies in the four denominational churches of Middleburg, in the Lutheran and Reformed churches in Selinsgrove, the Lutheran Church at Shamokin Dam, the Reformed Church of New Berlin, the Lutheran, Evangelical, and Reformed Church denominations at Penns Creek, the Lutheran, Reformed, and United Brethren denominations at Freeburg, the Lutheran Church at McKees Half Falls, the Lutheran Church at Beaver Springs, the Evangelical Church at Kreamer, the Paxtonville Evangelical Church, and in the churches of Troxelville and Fremont, and in Hassinger's Church. A Christian Endeavor Society was organized at Verdilla and Port Trevorton. The first and leading denominations which sponsored Christian Endeavor Societies in the county were Lutheran, Reformed, Evangelical, and United Brethren. Since that time practically every denomination represented in the county had set up Christian Endeavor Societies, but by no means every individual church of these denominations. A number of these organizations were in fact Christian Endeavor Societies although they didn't always operate under that name. When denominationalism was very strong, there was a tendency to assume the denominational name instead; nevertheless, they were affiliated with the County Christian Endeavor Union. Irrespective of the name under which the local society functioned, just so long as it proved a Christian organization of young people under the direction of the Protestant Church, it was welcomed into the county, state, and world unions.

The Christian Endeavor Societies of Snyder County organized themselves into a county organization in 1894. The first annual county convention was held in the Trinity Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove, November 5-6, 1896. Delegates were in attendance from the Christian Endeavor Societies of the county. The Reverend J. H. Barb, Pastor of Trinity Church, was its president and Cyril H. Haas, a student of Susquehanna University, served as the secretary. Among the men on the program were The Reverend Professor Jacob Yutzy, The Reverend D. E. McClain, The Reverend Chauncey R. Botsford, The Reverend W. C. Hoch, and The Reverend William A. Haas. Among the topics discussed were:

Do you keep your Christian Endeavor pledge?
Deepening the Spiritual Life.
Walking with God.

The second annual convention was held in the Lutheran Church at Middleburg, October 28, 1897. The principal speakers were Professor George W. Walborn, the Reverend S. Sidney Kohler, Dr. Jonathan R. Dimm, and the Reverend D. E. McClain. The three main topics of the program were:

How can we most successfully reach our young men?
The Christian Endeavor Pledge.
The Cause of Temperance.

Conventions were held in October or November in each year at different places throughout the county such as Freeburg, Penns Creek, Beaver Springs, Kratzerville, McClure, Paxtonville, Selinsgrove, and Middleburg until the opening years of World War I, when they were discontinued. After the war, the annual conventions were resumed again. The Christian Endeavor County programs have always been of a high class and of a deep-spiritual nature. At their conventions in Middleburg and Selinsgrove on October 17, 1940, Homer Rodeheaver, the distinguished trombone player, composer, song director, and co-worker of Billy Sunday for twenty years, and B. D. Ackley, the great composer of gospel songs and hymns, constituted the outstanding features of the program. Among the county presidents of recent years have been Clarence Chubb (1936-1939), of Port Trevorton; John Adam Aucker (1940-1941), of Verdilla; Sara Gaugler (1942-1944), and Arline Aucker (1945-1946), both of Port Trevorton.

Camp-Meetings in the County

What is a Camp-Meeting?

A camp-meeting may be defined as a series of religious meetings usually conducted in the out-of-doors in some woods or grove, and attended by people both from the immediate vicinity and from considerable distances. The people who came from great distances lived on the camp-meeting grounds for the period in tents, huts, or cabins. This type of open-air living by people devoting their time and energy to religious activities may appropriately be called a camp-meeting. The religious meetings were usually conducted in a large canvass tent or frame tabernacle temporarily constructed for the purpose as a means of protection from the weather. In some communities the term "bush-meeting" was used to designate these religious gatherings.

The Classes of People attending the Camp-Meetings

The people who attended camp-meetings may appropriately be divided into two groups. They may be called the regulars and the floaters. The regulars came prepared to live on the camp grounds for the full time of the camp-meeting. Since they came great distances and had to remain overnight, they were equipped to remain for the entire period of the camp-meeting. This meant farm wagons had to be made into temporary lodging places, huts had to be hastily constructed, crude log cabins had to be erected temporarily, or canvass tents had to be pitched. They brought their stoves and cooking utensils with them and provided their own boarding and sleeping quarters. The persons who had charge of the management of the camp-meeting conducted the religious services, and those who otherwise assumed responsibility for the success of the camp-meeting likewise lived in tents or cabins on the camp grounds. The people who attended the camp-meetings purely for religious reasons were perhaps relatively few in number. The floaters constituted those people who didn't live on the camp grounds and who limited their attendance to a day or two during the camp-meeting season. The floaters made up the multitudes who arrived for the sake of curiosity to seek social life, or just to go somewhere. They were essentially not interested in the religious portion of the program.

Why Camp-Meetings were so Popular

So far as the colored camp-meetings were concerned, the answer to this question is perfectly simple. Colored people were practically unknown in Snyder County in the days of camp-meetings. No doubt hundreds of people in the county had never seen a colored person, so the presence of colored people proved a great attraction. Their skin color, kinky hair, sparkling white teeth, their general appearance, and their mode of speech were fascinating to the Snyder County German population. Colored preachers and singers proved objects of curiosity to the people. Colored people were uncommon and hence afforded a special kind of attraction. Their novelty and strange behavior certainly drew the crowds. Many people attended the camp-meeting out of mere curiosity to find out what it was all about. No doubt some people came because they enjoyed the meetings; others found in them a new way of life, and in consequence became members of some denominational church in their home community.

Camp-meetings also provided a new social center for many people. Camp-meetings were largely restricted to rural areas, or at least to thinly-settled communities, and for people living in these sections they undoubtedly met a social need. The workings of socialization through conversation, imitation, and sympathetic radiation bound the people together in a special way. This provided at least a partial explanation for the popularity of camp-meetings. Then there was the religious appeal to which the human heart readily responded. While there may not be a religious instinct, still, the people appear to be essentially religious. The native urges, drives, and impulses such as love, fear, curiosity, the sex instinct, the aesthetic nature, kindness, sympathy, gregariousness, the satisfiers and the annoyers of life, and the love of being the cause, all conspire to make a human being religious. The camp-meetings with their religious programs and large crowds made a particular appeal. There was an air of mystery connected with some of these camp-meetings. This was to be expected in a day and age when superstition had a strong hold on the people. The people felt the need for protection against the magic powers of certain people lest they might cast a spell over them. They felt religious revivals afforded such protection from those in league with evil spirits. In the worship services,

frequently the worshippers were so emotionally overcome that they cried, shouted, or clapped their hands.

The fact that these religious gatherings were open-air meetings held a special appeal. Snyder County people knew little or nothing about going to a religious service conducted out in the woods. To them, church meant a building, people sitting perfectly still, often in uncomfortable pews, instead of milling around in a crowd among the trees, and worshippers limited for the most part to the people of their own immediate community. A church service in a grove among tall trees, far away from home, proved so unlike anything they had ever seen that its uniqueness afforded a special thrill to worshippers—somewhat like a sunset service on some hilltop at the present day. Whether consciously or unconsciously expressed, these simple people manifested the yearnings and the longings of a noble soul in their simple ways of reverence and worship. William Cullent Bryant in his "Forest Hymn" very beautifully sets forth the gropings of the human soul for his God and Creator in the midst of the primeval forests.

The groves were God's first temples, Ere man learned
To hew the shaft and lay the architrave,
And spread the roof above them — ere he framed
The lofty vault, to gather and roll back
The sound of anthems — in the darkling wood,
Amid the cool and silence, he knelt down
And offered the Mightiest solemn thanks and Supplication.

The Nature of the Camp-Meeting Program

The religious services were conducted in a large tent or tabernacle. The material equipment was rustic, to say the least. Planks laid across logs in parallel rows served as seats for the audience. In the front was a platform with seats for the choir and a pulpit stand for the preacher. There were usually two religious services per day—an afternoon and an evening service. Each service consisted of one or more sermons or addresses and much hymn-singing. The sermons were strictly of the evangelistic type, highly emotional, and emphasized the factors of fear and authority in religion. Their primary purpose was to drive the fear of God into the people. Common scriptural texts were, "Almost Thou persuadest me to be a Christian", "What shall it profit a man to gain the Whole World and Lose his Own Soul", "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and Thou shalt be Saved". The hymn-singing con-

sisted of such hymns and songs as, "My Faith Looks up to Thee", "Will there be any Stars in my Crown", "When the Roll is called up Yonder". In case of colored camp-meetings, the negro spirituals were typical. The appeal for a generous offering usually occupied a prominent and often prolonged part of the services. There is no gain-saying that the purpose of the colored camp-meeting was more commercial than evangelistic. The more devout people in regular attendance spent their time at these evangelistic services, listening to the sermons, meditating upon religious precepts, and engaging in prayer. No wonder camp-meetings frequently ended in revivals and in many conversions.

The Era of Camp-Meetings in Snyder County

There is reason for believing that the camp-meeting movement emerged from the revivalistic preaching of the latter days of the eighteenth century and during the period of the nineteenth century. These revivalistic methods, called by the enemies "new measures", were definitely felt even in our own county. These revivalistic meetings were first conducted in churches, school-houses, private dwellings, and barns. So many people were attracted that it became necessary to hold the meetings out-of-doors, and the groves naturally began to be used for that purpose. During most of the nineteenth century, camp-meetings were exceptionally popular as judged by the size of the crowd attracted. The turn of the last century can appropriately be called a "dying-out" period for camp-meetings in Snyder County. People traveled many miles by buggy, carriage, spring-wagon, bicycle, and on foot over long and dusty roads. Nearly everybody from far and near attended camp-meeting for at least a day, not counting bush-meetings. The writer attended his first colored camp-meeting in 1895 at the Summit, located between Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mills.

An Account of the first Camp-Meetings

The first camp-meetings in the United States were held in 1799 in the state of Kentucky. It is reported that this camp-meeting was so popular that at any one meeting could be found a crowd estimated at 20,000 people. Camp-meetings were introduced into England by Lorenzo Dow as early as 1807. The first Methodist Camp-Meeting in America was held near Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1839. The

first German Camp-Meeting of the United Brethren Church was held in Franklin County, Pa., in 1815. Linn in his *Annals of Buffalo Valley* states that in April, 1807, the first Methodist Camp-Meeting in this part of the state was held on Chillisquaque Creek one and one-half miles from the Susquehanna River. Linn also refers to a Methodist Camp-Meeting on Jacob Ziebach's farm in Union County in 1844. The first Methodist Camp-Meeting in Juniata County was held in a grove not far from Academia about about the year 1820. At the third regular conference in 1810 of the followers of Jacob Albright, the founder of the Evangelical Church, it was decided to hold two camp-meetings during that year. Albright* states that "this was the beginning of camp-meetings in the Evangelical Church, the first German Camp-Meeting in America, and perhaps in the world". The first camp-meeting was held in May, 1810, on the farm of Michael Maize, two miles east of New Berlin, on the road from New Berlin to Winfield, and the second camp-meeting was held in October of the same year in Berks County.

The Evangelical Association held three camp-meetings in 1812; one of them was held in May of that year on the Maize Farm. Camp-meetings were a new type of religious meeting and because of their novelty attracted thousands of people. It is said the camp-meeting on the Maize farm was attended by all the preachers and by most of the members of the Evangelical Church for miles around. There wasn't any disturbance of any kind. It was quite generally believed that these meetings were a good thing, but when numerous conversions of old-established church-members took place, many became violently opposed to them. Sometimes fifty to one hundred conversions would take place at one camp-meeting. In 1826, a number of young men walked from Buffalo Valley to a camp-meeting held on the land of John Walter, a few miles north of Middleburg, on the road to New Berlin. Three of these young men were converted and all three became ministers in the Evangelical Church. One of them, W. W. Orwig (1810-1889), became the President of Union Seminary (1859-1863) at New Berlin, Pa.

Later Camp-Meetings in this Area

These later camp-meetings, for the most part, were held during the period following the Civil War to the close

*The History of the Evangelical Church

of the nineteenth century. The United Brethren Church conducted a camp-meeting in Bower's Grove, at the Red Bridge, two and one-half miles west of Middleburg, beginning, August 18, 1870, and continued for ten days. In the closing years of the nineteenth century, a camp-meeting was held in the grove on the north side of the Red Bridge under the auspices of the Evangelical Church. The Reverend J. H. Herts, minister of the Middleburg Charge, was instrumental in holding this camp-meeting. Later the camp-meeting was held in Bower's Grove on the south side of the Red Bridge, since the grove on the north side had been cut down. The regular attendants of the camp-meeting lived in canvass tents arranged in a large circle with the tabernacle on the north side of this circle. The farmers of the community furnished the straw for the bunks in the tents, and each day they came around with fresh milk. There was a boarding tent where people from a distance could get meals at reasonable rates. The resident campers had their own stoves and did their own cooking. This camp-meeting was very well attended, especially on Sundays. The Pennsylvania passenger trains stopped at the grove to let passengers on and off, and this quite naturally accounted for the very large crowds. This camp-meeting continued until the opening years of the twentieth century. Camp-meetings under the auspices of the United Brethren Church were also held in Hartman's Woods, about one and one-half miles north of Royer's Bridge in August, 1880. This bridge was located about three miles northwest of Middleburg or about two miles above the Red Bridge. The Evangelical Church conducted camp-meetings in the woods of Abraham Eyer, two miles north of Kratzerville in 1873. Camp-meetings under the auspices of the United Brethren Church were held in Michael Moyer's Grove one mile west of Freeburg. The United Brethren Church held camp-meetings at Graybill's Grove, near Richfield, as early as 1885, and the Evangelical Church had camp-meetings at Daniel's Church in Buckwheat Valley about the same time. A camp-meeting was conducted for many years at Pallas, Washington Township, under the auspices of the Evangelical Church. It drew large crowds. It was colored and white at various times.

A colored camp-meeting was held at Clement's Park, near Shamokin Dam, as early as 1878, and continued annually until the late nineties. It's chief attractions

were the colored preacher and colored choir. A colored folks' camp-meeting was held, beginning Saturday, September 15, 1877, near Smithgrove, now Kreamer. The camp-meeting was held about one-half mile east of the village on an island in Middle Creek, not far from the railroad bridge. The meetings were continued over the following Sunday. "On Sunday", the Middleburg Post states, "it was attended by probably three to four thousand people, principally white folks. There were able sermons by colored preachers." A colored camp-meeting was held for some years in Jones' Grove, one mile south of Renninger's schoolhouse in Franklin Township.

Another colored camp-meeting was held some fifty years ago in a grove at the Summit, located along the old road between Middleburg and Mt. Pleasant Mills, and flourished for many years. Samuel Bowen, the proprietor of the Black Horse Hotel at the place, appears to have been the moving spirit in starting this camp-meeting. The camp-meeting was continued under the management of his son, Sylvester Bowen. The Negroes were brought from Harrisburg and Lewistown. Several years afterwards, John R. VanHorn purchased the hotel property from Bowen and continued the camp-meeting for about five years. When his son, Norris VanHorn, succeeded him, he conducted at intervals either a white or colored camp-meeting over a period of nearly forty years. The camp-meeting usually extended over three successive Sundays in the months of July and August. The Negroes came from Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Milton, New Jersey and from Olean, New York. The attendance numbered from 800 to 1,000 people on the average and occasionally reached a peak of 2,500. No camp-meeting has been held in this grove since 1940.

Camp-Meetings in the County Today

A large camp-meeting has been held at Hummel's Wharf since 1920, under the auspices of the God's Holiness Grove Camp-Meeting Association. The camp-meeting grounds consist of eight acres and seventy-seven perches of land which were purchased from the heirs of Henry Hummel, September 25, 1920, for camp-meeting purposes. In 1921, the tabernacle was constructed. Later on there were added the dining hall, a dormitory, office building, and the care-taker's home. There are at present fifteen privately-owned cottages on the grounds, erected on lots

leased from the Camp-meeting Association. The first cottage was erected in 1926.

The Holiness Camp-meeting was originally conducted at Milton, but no satisfactory grove could be obtained in that locality, so the camp-meeting was moved to Hummel's Wharf where suitable grounds were available. Consequently, all the equipment such as beds, springs, mattresses, tents, flooring, kitchen equipment, and other materials were moved to this new place. The time for the annual camp-meeting extends from Friday evening over the last two Sundays of the month of August. The management is under the jurisdiction of a Camp-meeting Board of seven members; four ministers and three laymen. One member of the board is elected annually for a term of seven years at a meeting of the association on Thursday evening of camp-meeting time. At this meeting is chosen also a director of the camp-meeting for the year.

The primary objective of the Pilgrim Holiness Camp-meeting is to secure new converts to the faith and to stimulate the religious life of all the members of the Pilgrim Holiness Church throughout this area. The worship services are conducted by evangelists, Bible teachers, and Gospel singers. While the camp-meeting has always been well attended, it is only within the past few years that the attendance has grown by leaps and bounds. Approximately 1,500 people are now in attendance. This has increased a felt need to enlarge the tabernacle. The dining room that accommodates 166 persons at any one time is no longer large enough to serve its purpose. Meals have to be served cafeteria style in order to accommodate the large crowds in the allotted time.

The denominational churches most active in promoting camp-meetings in the county have been the Evangelical Association, the United Brethren, and the Pilgrim Holiness Churches. The Methodist, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian Churches have at times been interested, but they never conducted any such meetings within the confines of Snyder County. The only other camp-meeting in the county today has been conducted annually since 1938 in the months of July and August under the auspices of God's Missionary Church. The camp grounds are located a short distance north of the town of Penns Creek and contain a tabernacle and a number of cottages. The attendance usually ranges from 1,200 to 1,500 people.

What brought about the decline of the Camp-Meetings

Camp-meetings undoubtedly did much good in a day when church buildings were few in number and far between. The type of religious meeting with its emphasis upon revivalistic preaching appealed particularly to a people whose formal academic educational attainments were never high. It made its greatest progress among a people interested in a religion that had a strong emotional appeal. Among such, conversions were numerous and church accessions increased. As the place of fear and authority in religion declined, the efficacy of that type of camp-meeting declined with it. In the opening days of the twentieth century, mass evangelism did not prove to be so successful anymore. Camp-meetings, like almost everything else, began to outlive their usefulness. As people began to be better educated, they lost much of their emotional appeal. As the means of transportation and communication improved so that people could meet more frequently, the need of a camp-meeting as a social center was no longer felt. In course of time, the religious character of the camp-meeting deteriorated to such a degree that many church people began to question the propriety of continuing them. Instead of being soul-saving institutions, they tended to become the very opposite.

When the keynote of an institution has been one of praise and worship and religious education rather than of pleasure and material gains and then rapidly it becomes transformed into a commercial enterprise, a place of recreation and amusement, attended by people only in anticipation of a good time, that institution will no longer be supported by the religious people who alone can guarantee survival. Deterioration will be the inevitable. Probably the very factors that proved so helpful in fostering camp-meetings in former days were also partly responsible in bringing about their decline in these latter days. It is a recognized fact that agencies and institutions persist in their existence only so long as there is need for their existence, and when the need no longer exists, such agencies and institutions cease to exist. It is the old principle of the "survival of the fittest", and the "fittest" in such a case is the thing that adapts itself best to the life of the community. Also, when an enterprise becomes commonplace through the loss of its uniqueness and no

longer presents an interest appeal, it will no longer be supported.

Adequate church buildings began to meet the needs of the people, protracted meetings in some of these churches served as substitutes for camp-meeting during the winter months; so that by the opening days of the present century, camp-meetings began to disappear very rapidly. About the only thing left of camp-meetings that tends to have survival value is the worship appeal in God's great out-of-doors under the open sky in the midst of the things that God had made. There is only one hope for the return of the religious camp-meetings, and that will occur when the people will return again to their original intents and purposes. The writer believes that the old-fashioned camp-meeting is gone and is gone forever. For some years now, church camps and summer schools have been flourishing. Their offerings are of a composite nature of preaching services, prayer meetings, young people's meetings, children's services, and courses in religious education for children, young people, and adults. These denominational camps and summer schools are good substitutes for the camp-meeting, they are distinctly educational in their programs, and are better adapted to the conditions and circumstances of modern life.

The Tri-County Men's Bible Class Rally

The Tri-County Men's Bible Class Rally had its beginnings in a series of class meetings of the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Bible Class of Shamokin Dam at Rolling Green Park during the summers of 1930, 1931, and 1932. In the following summer of 1933 this class was joined by the Men's Bible Class of the First Evangelical Church of Sunbury, and in 1934 by the Goodfellowship Bible Class of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Middleburg. At a joint meeting of the three Bible Classes in 1935, an organization was effected and an invitation extended to all Men's Bible Classes of Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties to unite with them in their summer rally. Lester C. Buffington was chosen president and Roman M. Spangler, secretary-treasurer. These officers have served the organization continuously up to the present time. The primary purpose of the Tri-County Men's Bible Class Rally has been to increase the enrollment of the Bible Classes of the three counties, stimulate

the attendance, and promote interest in the work of the Sunday School.

The rally of the Bible Classes of the three counties has been held annually ever since at Rolling Green Park in the forenoon of the first Sunday in August, with the exception that there were no rallies during the war years of 1943, 1944, and 1945. A chairman, chosen annually from among the membership, presides over the rally for that year. Among the men who have served in this capacity have been A. D. Gougler, Hayes L. Person, I. A. DeWitt, Esq., and Henry Stetler. The rally is conducted in the nature of an open-air assembly on a rising piece of ground located immediately west of the park pavilion. The program for the annual rally is strictly of a religious nature in conformity with the spirit and purpose of the day.

The music consists in part of congregational singing. Dr. C. H. Herrington, the Rev. I. C. Bailey, and Mr. Emory Klinger have served as the song-leaders, and Dr. Leon Messner and Mr. Allen Kissinger as the pianists. In addition to the congregational singing, there are solos, choruses, and instrumental selections. Among the individuals and organizations who have served in this way may be mentioned the Red Lion Concert Band, the Girls' Saxophone Band of Lewistown, the Evangelical Orphanage Band of Lewisburg, the Acapella Male Chorus of Lewistown, the Ladies' Chorus of Lewistown, the Beavertown Male Quartette, the Inter-denominational Men's Chorus with the Rev. I. C. Bailey as the director, and special vocal selections by Mr. and Mrs. E. Rudolph Grimm of Beavertown. The Scripture Reading is usually the International Sunday School Lesson for that Sunday. This lesson is read and the prayer is offered by a lay member of the organization. The speaker for the occasion is always a man of much prominence in Church and Sunday School work. The speakers during these years have been the Hon. Frank C. Bowersox, Dr. Frank P. Boyer, Carl Martin Distler, Esq., Dr. George F. Dunkelberger, Dr. Charles C. Ellis, Dr. Calvin V. Erdley, William S. Livengood, Dr. Claude Mitchell, and Judge Robert E. Woodside. In recent years the program has been broadcast over Station WKOK of Sunbury. The attendance usually numbers several thousand people.

The Common Schools of the Country

If any man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin.

The common schools as they existed more than a century ago stand in sharp contrast to the schools in operation to-day. In almost every way the difference is so marked that it becomes difficult to see how the one can be the outgrowth of the other. This applies to buildings, equipment, program of studies, textbooks and supplies, methods of teaching, modes of discipline for infractions of school rules, and types of teachers.

Buildings and Equipment

The first schools were conducted for the most part in buildings not erected for school purposes. They were more frequently old, abandoned, or unoccupied buildings, spring-houses, shop buildings of various kinds, and dwelling houses. Quite obviously the buildings were of a miscellaneous type and of the crudest kind. The first school houses were log buildings and were roofed with clapboards. They were generally very small, often not larger than eighteen by fourteen feet with few windows and no plastered walls and ceilings. Sometimes the roof was made of shingles and the ceiling with boards.

For the most part the schools were one-room and one-story structures. A few were two stories high and had two rooms, one room for the school and the other room for living quarters for the teacher. The teacher often served as the janitor for the church, located on the same lot alongside the schoolhouse, providing the schoolhouse didn't serve the purposes of the church. He also was the musical director or song-leader at the church services, directing the singing of the church hymns. The furniture fully corresponds with the primitive nature of the building. The teacher had a desk or table with a bench or chair; the pupils had long desk or tables with slab benches without backs or supports. The desks or tables of the pupils were placed along the walls of the room. Those pupils who occupied single desks faced the walls; those occupying double-desks or tables were seated facing one another. Frequently the boys and girls were seated facing one another. The slab benches were all of one

height, irrespective of the size of the pupils. A ten-plate stove occupied the middle of the room. The smaller pupils were seated between the stove and the desks or tables of the larger pupils. Wood was used as fuel.

In course of time changes in the furniture and its arrangement took place. This was for the advantage of both the pupils and teacher. The teacher's desk became located on a small platform at the end of the room in the middle of the wall; the pupils' desks were arranged in rows on the right and left of the central aisle extending from the teacher's desk to the door. The seats now had backs which were attached to the desks. Finally desks for two pupils were arranged in double rows as in the previous case.

From a note book of Professor Daniel S. Boyer, County Superintendent (1857-1860), the following notes are recorded with respect to his visits to schools:

The school near Schadel's Mill, visited December 11, 1857. The school-house is weatherboarded but not plastered nor ceiled. It is twenty-four feet square.

On a second visit, February 4, 1858, the school was opened by reading the Testament. Eighty pupils were enrolled of whom fifty-four were present. The school is too large for the house, too many classes, and the building is unfit for school use.

A school near Schnee's, visited December 14, 1857. A log house formerly used by the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations as a church, size eighteen by thirty-five feet, ceiled with boards. Large woodstove near the middle of the room. Fourteen desks to seat four pupils each.

Visited the school-house in Buckwheat valley near Gordon's, December 15, 1857. A large log school-house, weatherboarded, not plastered nor ceiled, twenty-four feet square. Wood-stove near the middle of the room. Long desks along the wall. Long benches, too high for the smaller pupils. No blackboard. Hats and coats hanging along the wall. Thirty-seven pupils present. The books used were UNION PRIMER, Cobb's and Byerly's SPELLING BOOK, Cobb's First, Second, and THIRD READERS, McGuffie's READERS, Sander's FIRST ENGLISH READER, HISTORY OF THE WORLD, GERMAN PSALTERY, Smith's and Rose's ARITHMETICS. No directors ever visited the school.

The following described visit was to a school-house located in the area later known as the Independent District of Evendale:

The school at David Kremer's in the western part of the township was visited, February 3, 1858. The house is eighteen feet square, situated near the road. A miserable log-cabin, not plastered nor ceiled. Well-ventilated with broken windows and openings in the floor. Blackboard one foot by four feet. Long desks along the wall and high slab benches. Twenty-eight pupils enrolled.

The school near George Brouse, on the road from Kratz-

erville to New Berlin, is an unceiled log building twenty-five feet square. It has eight windows, two long tables with pupils facing one another. No blackboard and no shade trees.

The school near David Snyder's in Jackson Township is an unceiled weather-boarded house twenty feet square, six windows, nine desks to seat two pupils, four desks to seat four pupils each, and yet forty-nine pupils crowd into this place.

The First Schoolmasters

As would be expected for the times, the teachers for the most part were not well-educated. Almost anyone who could barely read, write, and cipher could teach school. In fact some persons attempted to teach who couldn't read English script, and had no knowledge of Arithmetic at all. Teachers were so few in number that almost anyone who knew anything at all, and could be persuaded to do so, would teach. In other words, they became teachers because of necessity and not because of choice. In the issue of November 20, 1840, of THE UNION STAR, published in New Berlin, the following advertisement occurred:

Teacher Wanted. A teacher capable of teaching English Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, etc., is wanted to take charge of the Isle of Que school. The school is very large and none but one who can come well recommended need apply. Apply to Jacob Riblet.

Most of the teachers were of German parentage, either native or foreign born. Those of foreign birth were quite well-educated. A few of them could speak English, some could speak both English and German, but much of the teaching of English was done by teachers who couldn't speak English. The subscription schools existed prior to 1834, and were usually taught by itinerant teachers who were undoubtedly better known as disciplinarians than teachers of reading, writing and ciphering. Because of their questionable moral character, it was soon found expedient for them not to become permanent residents of the community. These schools prevailed for three months of the year, and usually were held from five to eight miles apart. Spelling, writing, reading, and ciphering were taught.

Prior to the creation of the office of County Superintendent in 1854, whatever examinations candidates for teaching were asked to take were conducted by the School Directors themselves, or by some lawyer, doctor, or min-

ister designated by the directors. The examination usually consisted of the reading of a few paragraphs, the solving of a few simple problems in arithmetic, and perchance some definitions of terms in geography and grammar. In fact the teachers were not required to take examinations and School Directors were not required to visit the schools. With the selection of a County Superintendent came the idea of having the examinations for teachers conducted by him.

The moral standards of many of these early teachers weren't high. Since it was quite common to have distilleries in the different districts, teachers often indulged in whiskey-drinking even to the extent of being habitual drunkards, and cases have been reported in the county where teachers even while on duty were in an intoxicated condition. Sometimes they fell into a drunken stupor during school hours despite the noise of the pupils. It is reported of a teacher by the name of Yeisley in the western end of the county that he was drunk much of the time, and of another teacher by the name of Obermoyer who brought his flask to the school, and at one time during his periods of slumber, some of the pupils got possession of the flask and drank too much. Some of the teachers were given to much profanity, and didn't hesitate to give expression to its use in the schoolroom.

The disciplinary procedure of the times was harsh and cruel. The common method of discipline in the old-fashioned school was corporal punishment. The equipment for disciplinary purposes consisted of birch rods, sharp-edged wooden horses, leather spectacles, and dunce caps. Some school-masters used the ruler on the palm of the hand, knuckles, head, or the back. Frequently the cane or dusting brush was employed. When a pupil was whipped, it was done so severely that it left a mark. Some schoolmasters were notoriously noted for their severity in whipping their pupils. It is said a twelve-year old boy was whipped with a hickory stick one-half inch thick and four feet long so violently that "the other pupils feared he would be killed". Whipping was quite generally accepted by the parents of these children, and a whipping in school usually meant another one by the parent upon the child's return home from school.

The salaries of the teachers were very small. In the subscription schools, the pay of a teacher per pupil was fifty cents per month of twenty-six days, counting only

the days actually attended. In these schools when the income seemed insufficient, the teacher usually abandoned the school, and the children received no further schooling that year unless perchance another teacher came along to take his place. The fact is that many children never got to school at all, the reason being parental objection to education or the inability of the parent to pay for the schooling. At the beginning of "free schools" in 1834, teachers' salaries ranged from twelve to twenty-five dollars per month. In 1868, salaries in the county ranged from twenty to forty dollars per month. The teacher had no room and board bill to pay since it was the custom to "board round" with the school patrons.

The Program of Studies

At first the only studies taught were reading and spelling. Later on writing and arithmetic were added for the boys, but were thought of doubtful value for the girls. Girls were supposed to have all the education they needed if they were able to read the catechism, psalter, and the Testament. Girls who learned to write and cipher were the exception. The four subjects of reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling were known as the common branches. The common branches were also taught in the subscription schools, but the German Language had precedence over the English Language. Both English and German were taught in most of the schools prior to 1834. In Jackson Township in 1856, fifteen of its 219 pupils were studying German. In that year the total enrollment for the entire county was 4,957 pupils, and 205 of them were studying German. The ABC book, the NEW ENGLAND PRIMER, PSALTER, TESTAMENT, and Dillworth's SPELLING-BOOK were the text books used. Geography was first taught in the county at Freeburg in 1828, and grammar in 1831. Both geography and grammar were not taught on an extensive scale until after 1870, because of much opposition to them. Some of this opposition came from the teachers who didn't know anything about them. Some parents claimed that they had acquired property without a knowledge of geography and grammar, and that it was not necessary for their children to know anything about them either. Some felt that geography might have some value if people intended to travel, but since they didn't want their children to travel, it would be folly to waste time on it in school. Others

thought grammar had some value for lawyers, doctors and preachers, but since they did not want their children to learn any of those professions, they didn't want them to squander their time upon what would be useless to them in later life. They desired them to learn to spell, read, write, and cipher. A knowledge of these branches would enable them to get along anywhere in the world.

School must have been a very loosely conducted affair, something to be tolerated rather than actively supported. There was no compulsion to take courses. Pupils studied what they wanted or what their parents wanted them to study. Some pupils didn't study the multiplication tables and the tables of weights and measures on the ground that their parents had never studied them, and had gotten along well in the world, and that they did not need to know them either. Some boys and girls at the age of sixteen could read only with the greatest difficulty, being compelled to pause several times in each line to spell words in the hope of their being able to pronounce them.

Methods of Instruction

The first task of the beginner was to learn the names of the letters of the alphabet. The procedure was an individualized method of instruction and required from one to three or four winters to master. After having mastered the alphabet, letters were combined into words ranging from few to many letters in the hope of learning the pronunciation of words in that way. In fact, the pronunciation of words was thought possible only by naming the letters of the word. This method made learning to spell indispensable to reading. The use of phonetics in pronunciation was a thing unheard of. Some of the words to be learned had no meaning at all in terms of the child's experience. The mastery of a word depended on its size instead of its meaning to the child. From spelling the child went on to reading, which was practically nothing but the naming of words. Later much attention was given to pauses in reading as indicated by the punctuation marks and the rising and falling inflections of the voice. Spelling was taught orally with the teacher pronouncing the word and the pupil repeating the letters by syllables in proper sequence. There were no tablets as we know them today. Copy books made of foolscap paper or just common wrapping paper. The teacher wrote the

copy with a goose-quill pen and the pupils imitated it as well as they could. The juice of poke berries served as ink. Slates and sharpened sandstones were used as pencils. A double-slate was considered a luxury by a child. The writing was done with goose-quill pens, the cutting and mending of which required much of the teacher's time and skill. Oil-cloth painted black and pasted against the wall served as the first blackboards. Later the plastered wall, painted black, was used, and finally the slate blackboard came into general use. Arithmetic was seldom taught pupils under sixteen years, and seldom beyond addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Occasionally a pupil became advanced enough to study Simple Proportion or then known as the Single Rule of Three. There was no particular effort to understand a problem, since getting the answer was the important thing in every calculation. If a problem didn't have any answer, it could not be solved. Mental Arithmetic was introduced in 1845 because of its supposed value as a mental discipline, and it became a rather popular and important study in the school. Much memory work was required in the way of committing to memory poems, definitions, and rules. Parsing parts of speech, correcting false syntax, and analyzing and diagramming sentences were stressed. Geography consisted of the memorizing of names of rivers, cities, mountains, lakes, capes, and the boundaries of states and countries whether important or not. Children "said their lessons from the book".

There were no free text-books and supplies. The parents had to buy the books and supplies for their children. This led to all kinds of difficulties for the teacher, particularly in the lack of uniformity of the texts in use in a given subject. Sometimes no text-books at all were had by some of the pupils. The parents were not compelled by law to buy them, and in many cases they refused to do so. Free text-books and supplies for all the pupils were not made possible until the enactment of the Farr Bill, May 18, 1893, requiring school-boards to purchase out of the school funds "text-books and other scientific and mechanical school supplies, and furnish them to the pupils free of cost". The Act of Assembly of June 25, 1885, conferred upon school boards permissive authority to purchase text-books out of the school fund and to supply these books free of cost to the pupils for use in the schools of their respective districts. The act of 1893

made this mandatory on the part of the school board. Philadelphia was the first School District in Pennsylvania to make provision for free-text-books in its public schools in 1818. Many cities along the Atlantic sea-coast made similar provisions in the succeeding fifty years. In 1884 Massachusetts enacted the first state-wide law requiring all local school corporations to provide text-books at public expense to public school children.

Length of the School Term

At first a school term consisted of from two to three months with most of the pupils in attendance only from sixteen to thirty days in the term. The Free School Law of 1834 made no mention of a minimum school term of a certain number of months. The law simply stated that each school district was to report to the State the number of months during the year its schools were kept open. The First State School Report for 1834-35 stated that the schools were open on an average of three and one-third months. The Act of 1836 stated that the schools should be kept open at least six months, if funds would make it possible. The Act of 1849 required a minimum school term of not less than four months. The Act of 1850 reduced the minimum term to three-months, but the four-month school term was established; in 1887, a six-month term was established; in 1899, a seven-month term; and in 1922, an eight-month term was required. Each lengthening of the school term met with much opposition on the grounds that parents needed their children to work at home. It was stated at the time that there was no easier way to defeat a candidate for office than to circulate the report that he favored a longer school term. Since the school year 1941-1942, all the public elementary and Junior High Schools in Fourth Class Districts have been required to remain open at least 180 days during the year.

The Early Schools of the County

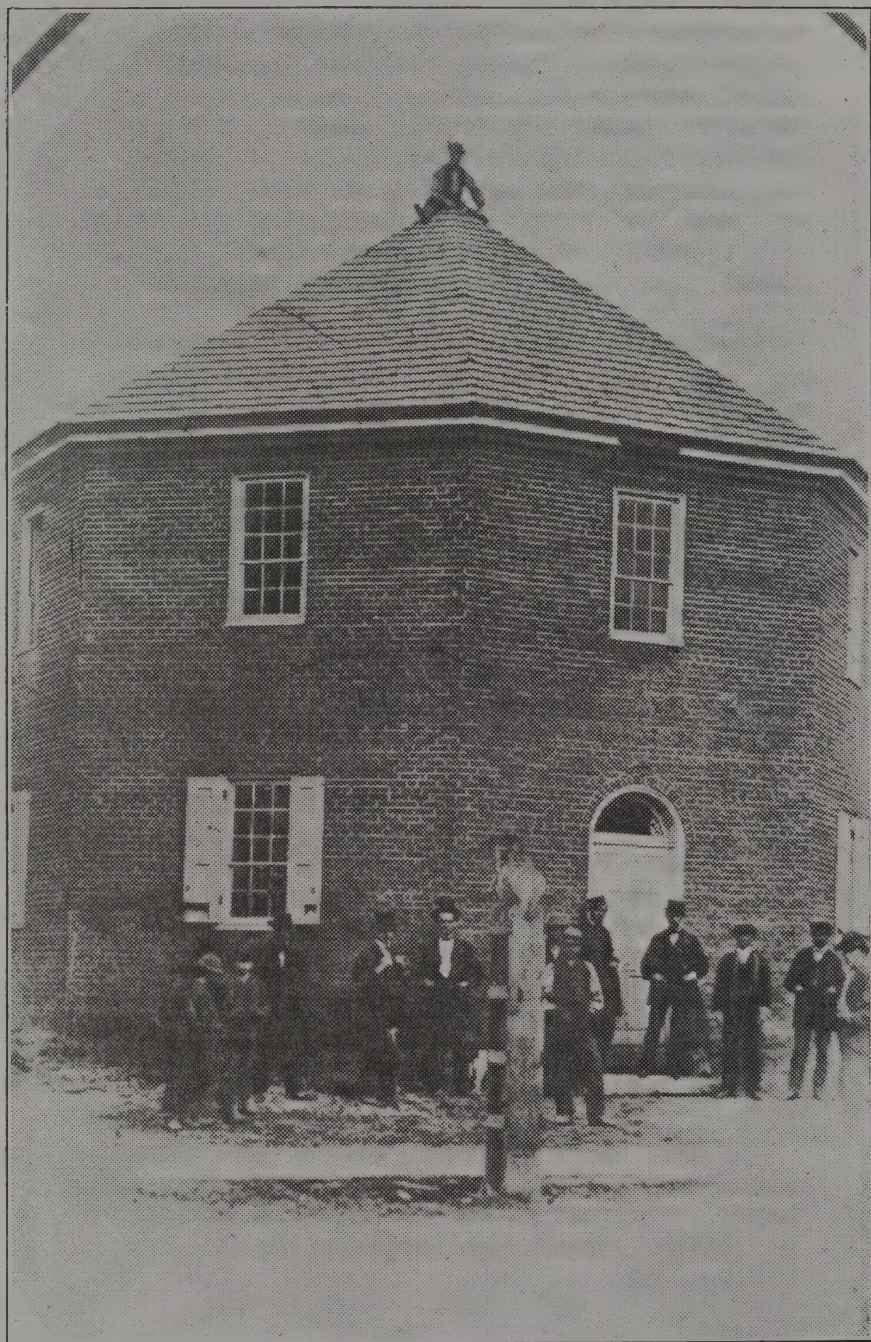
East End of the County

An old log schoolhouse was built in that portion of Selinsgrove, known as Weiserburg about 1770 to 1780. This log building stood where the Odd Fellows Hall and the Masonic Temple were erected years later. It was still in existence in 1802. It was probably used for both church and school purposes until the Lutheran and Re-

formed Congregations united in 1801 and built a larger building on the site of the present First Lutheran Church, on the corner of Bough and Market Streets. This log schoolhouse was used primarily for the children of church members, and the parents of other children experienced difficulty in having them admitted to the school. Church and school in these early days were very closely associated, since the church was charged with the responsibility of both secular and religious education. It ought to be stated here that many congregations had their own schools prior to the days of "free schools". In most cases throughout the county the schoolhouse was erected first and was used for both school and church services. Probably this accounts for the platforms which were used as pulpits in the first schoolhouses. A little later a church building was erected on the same plot of ground along side the school building. It is most significant that these pioneer settlers thought of religion and education as inseparable institutions.

A log school building was erected about 1790 on the present site of the public school building in Selinsgrove, on the northeast corner of Pine and High Streets. This was probably the second school building in the town. This building was replaced in 1870 with a two-story brick building which was destroyed by fire in 1874. In 1876 another building was erected in which were housed four schools. This was the building in use until the present Pine Street Building was erected. A schoolhouse was erected on the Isle of Que in 1830, on the southeast corner of Second and Walnut Streets. It was built on a lot given by Charles Drumm, the founder of Charlestown, on the Isle of Que. It was built by Peter Richter. This building was torn down and was rebuilt in 1876 and is still standing. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded in 1843, conducted a parochial school for a number of years.

In 1816 two subscription papers were circulated for raising money for the erection of a two-story octagonal-shaped, brick structure, later known popularly as the "pepper-box", located on the site of the Odd Fellows Hall, later the Masonic Building, and now the Selinsgrove Community Center. The "pepper-box" replaced the old log schoolhouse erected about 1770 to 1780. During the half century and more of its existence, it served as a Sunday School room, a schoolhouse, armory, and finally a print-



The Pepper-Box Schoolhouse

ing office. The second story of the "pepper-box" was first used as a Sunday School room for the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations, while the first floor was used for public school purposes during the winter months and for a subscription school for a portion of the remainder of the year. During the stormy days of the Civil War, it served as the printing office of the SELINSGROVE TIMES of which Frank Weirick was the editor at the time. When the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations separated in 1853, the "pepper-box" was sold to the I. O. O. F. Lodge, and in 1871 was removed to make way for the new I. O. O. F. Hall. This building served as the headquarters of the lodge until 1910 when it was bought by the Masonic Fraternity and became known as the Masonic Temple and Opera House. The building today is referred to as the Community Center.

Only the German language was taught in these early schools of Selinsgrove, since few of the teachers were capable of reading and speaking English. Later both languages were taught according to parental preference for the children. In fact, the teachers scarcely knew either German or English. The pupils were separated according to whether they wanted to be taught German or English. In the frame school building were taught those pupils who wanted English and in the old log school building and its successor (the pepper-box), those who wanted German. This continued until 1826 when all instruction in German was entirely abandoned. Frederick C. Eyer, the father of Colonel Henry C. Eyer, taught several years in the old log school building. He is described: "For the times, he was quite a good scholar in both English and German, taught a singing school, and was a good organ-player."

It becomes apparent that education must have been sadly neglected. It is said about 1808 that Simon Snyder, Jacob Lechner, Captain Frederick Evans, Frederick C. Eyer, and George Kremer were about the only persons in the county who were to any extent educated. Kremer was a clerk in Snyder and Selin's store; Evans and Lechner were surveyors; and Eyer was a school teacher.

The first schools were ungraded. About the beginning of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, a high school was organized in Selinsgrove, made up of the ninth and tenth grades. Later on, a third year was added, and

about the beginning of the present century the school was expanded to a full four-year course.

Outside the town of Selinsgrove, according to Prof. Noetling, the first house built exclusively for school purposes was App's in Monroe Township. It was erected about 1760 and continued to be used until 1835. In this school, girls learned reading only, writing and ciphering being considered unnecessary for them. It is said the girls frequently brought their sewing along "to show the big boys they could sew". The boys learned a little ciphering and writing in addition to reading. Order and quiet were unknown in the school. In 1804 Peter Epler was the teacher of this school. A log school house was erected at Rowe's Church about 1775 or 1780. It had one story with a loft and two rooms. The west room was used for school purposes and the east room consisted of a kitchen and living room for the teacher. The teacher received the use of the building for his services at the church as janitor and musical director. The church constitution of 1814 states that the church council "shall make provisions for a German school teacher to visit the school, and see that the building is kept in good condition". This school building was in use until 1842 when a new building was erected for a schoolroom and for a dwelling for the teacher. Later the house was used solely as the sexton's home.

One's admiration goes out toward the early stalwart supporters of schools in the face of the greatest opposition on the part of the masses. Progress has always been made possible by the labors and sacrifices of the few. None of these champions of education was more ardent and self-sacrificing than John App. He was reared on the App farm located about two miles north of Selinsgrove. This farm was purchased by his father, Mathias App, November 18, 1790, from Simon Snyder and Anthony Selin. Deprived of the advantages of school himself, he keenly felt the necessity of providing adequate schooling for his own children and those of the community. He erected a school building of his own on his farm, equipped it for school use, employed a teacher, and paid him himself. He invited his neighbors to send their children to the school free. While people of the community were prevailingly German-speaking, an English-speaking teacher was employed, and English was taught in the school. This building was the first school in this section of the county. It is known to this day as the App's school. Another pi-

ioneer in the movement for schools in this part of the county was Dr. Isaac Hottenstein of Monroe Township. In 1830 he built a frame school building on his own land in which a school was conducted at his own expense for five months of the year.

Middle Part of the County

There was an old schoolhouse, one mile north of Freeburg. It was erected about 1787 on land donated by Andrew Morr for church and school purposes. The first schools in Freeburg were held in private dwellings. One of them was on Market Street and the other one was located on Front Street. The first building specifically erected for school purposes was built in 1825 at a cost of ten dollars for glass and nails, the other materials such as logs and boards being given by the citizens. A day was set aside by the people of the community to build the schoolhouse. The log house was twenty-four feet square with low ceiling. The spaces between the logs were plastered, but no plastering was on the inside wall, nor was it weatherboarded. It stood on the grounds now occupied by the Lutheran and Reformed Church. In 1845 this log building was replaced by a brick building consisting of two rooms separated by a partition. The length of the school term was four months and the teachers' salary was eighteen dollars per month. This building was removed in 1868 to provide room for the brick church, and another brick school was erected. It had four rooms. This school building was in use for twenty-seven years when the present brick building was erected.

There was a schoolhouse at Fremont, erected probably about 1800 to 1810. A subscription school was taught by Joseph Schnee for three months during the winter. A person by the name of Daniel Rush gave a lot in 1799 for school use. A log schoolhouse was erected on it. It was later torn down and the materials were used in the building of Zieber's Church in 1840 at Globe Mills. The school was then conducted in the church building. A schoolhouse near Erdley's Church, of brick construction, was in use about the time of the Civil War.

The first schoolhouse in Middleburg was a frame building located at the east end of the town on the entrance road to the Glendale Cemetery. This was near the spot where the Indian Massacre of 1768 had occurred and it became known as "Stump's Run Academy". This

building was torn down in 1908. It was also used for many years to house a Sunday School. A similar building stood on Pine Street at the end of Walnut Street and was known as the "Gravel Hill Seminary". The school term at the time was only three months in length and was frequently supplemented by subscription schools in the spring and summer. It appears that the town was divided into two areas, the children in one part of the town attended the Stump's Run Academy, and the children in the other part attended the Gravel Hill Seminary. These schools were practically ungraded at the time. Later a two-story brick building was erected on the site of the Gravel Hill Seminary. This building was used until the erection of the brick building on Sugar Street in 1899. As early as 1895, the schools were graded.

These two schools had very good teachers for the times. At least one of them ought to be mentioned. His name was Waldo Reed of Connecticut. He is described as a good teacher who possessed a kind and loving disposition. He maintained the love and respect of every person. A tombstone erected by funds contributed by his former pupils as a tribute of respect marks his grave in Glendale Cemetery.

Southern and Southwestern Part of the County

In 1776 a tract of land was given for church purposes known as Grubb's or Bauerman's, but no school appears to have been opened in that section until about 1780. In that year a school building of log construction, located near the church, was erected. It had three rooms and was one and one-half stories high. One room was for school purposes, another room was for a kitchen, and another was for a living and bedroom for the teacher. The teacher served as janitor and musical director of the church. Among the teachers of this school may be named Rudolph Brugger, Henry Arnold, John Young, and Samuel Scholl. There was a schoolhouse at Independence in 1830, and one at McKees Half Falls in 1835. These schools were held in almost any kind of a building available since no school buildings were erected then. At first German only was taught since there was so much opposition to English even as late as 1837. The length of the school term was two months. The citizens selected the teacher, and if he could speak German, he was considered competent. Reading and spelling seemed to receive most atten-

tion. There were many boys and girls sixteen years old who couldn't read. Arithmetic was scarcely studied beyond the multiplication tables. Most of the schoolhouses had no blackboards, in fact none was needed since everything was done according to the book. It is interesting to note that the introduction of blackboards later met with great opposition. Some said the pupils had slates for the purpose, while others said they had good schools without such things. Education was generally condemned on the grounds that it was productive of rascality. Grammar and geography were not introduced until 1860.

An old deed dated August 15, 1812, states that for the consideration of \$7.83 five and one-fourth acres of land, situated in Mahantango Township, Northumberland County, (now Perry Township, Snyder County), were conveyed to a committee of citizens "in trust and to their successors acting in the office of trusteeship which said successors shall be chosen and elected by a majority of the trustees present at the time of election from time to time forever, to and for the only use and benefit of a German and English School for the instruction of the youth in both languages, as also for a place of worship to all denominations and professions of Christian religion universal in unity, forever, and to and for no other purpose whatsoever". There was a schoolhouse on this land and a subscription school was conducted in it during the winter months.

One of the teachers for many years in what is now known as Perry Township was Francis Charles Portzline. He was born near Dusseldorf, Germany, in the Rhine Valley, October 4, 1771. His father was a teacher of a select school. When quite young, he with his mother and sister decided to emigrate to America. The mother died at sea, and Francis and his sister landed at Baltimore and in due time settled in York County. He married Sabina Heiges, the daughter of George Heiges. After conducting a store (1804-1812), and serving as a surveyor for some years, he came to Union County (Snyder) and settled at a place about a mile west of Meiserville. Some remnants of the wall of the house in which he lived may still be seen. He was a well-educated man. It is said that he was conversant with French, English, German, and the Latin Language. He also possessed more than average ability as an artist. A number of his birth and baptismal certificates are still found among his descendants and

among the records of historical societies. He was a business man, surveyor, teacher, and artist.* Francis C. Portzline died in 1858, and was buried in the Portzline Cemetery, located along the road between the St. Thomas U. B. Church and Meiserville. His descendants constitute a large and illustrious family. He was the grandfather of Eli Portzline, a teacher in Perry Township for thirty years. One of his sons, Abraham Portzline, was the father of David and Francis Portzline of Selinsgrove.

Western Part of the County

The townships of Beaver, West Beaver, Adams, and Spring were originally included in the Old Beaver Township, erected in 1787. Records of schools in this area do not go further back than 1818. No doubt schools must have existed prior to that time. Henry Smith, who lived years ago at Beaver Springs and attended schools about 1820-25, states that he attended "school from sixteen to thirty days each year, which was about average time of attendance of each pupil".

From this time on, records indicate schoolhouses at different places in this part of the county. Both German and English were taught, the schoolhouses were mostly of log construction, and the teachers usually were described as "very profane and strict disciplinarians".

About the year 1810 John Dreese gave fifty acres of land for church and school purposes at Regerstown (Beaver Springs). At the time an old log schoolhouse, built about 1790, stood at the east end of the town. It is believed that there was a school at that place as early as 1764. In 1810 a German by the name of Leichle was a teacher of reading. His successor was a man by the name of Yeisley. It is said that he was intoxicated most of the time. Both of these men are reported as having used the rod most inhumanly. Another teacher who taught at this place about 1832 was David Obermoyer who also was much addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors.

The Beginning of Free Schools in the County

The schools prior to the free schools were privately supported by the parents of the children attending them. As would be expected, many of the parents were financially unable to pay for their children's schooling, especially when the families were large, and that appeared

*See Frances Lichten's FOLK ART OF RURAL PENNSYLVANIA

to be the situation in many cases. This condition led to the establishment of schools at public expense for those unable to pay, under the provisions of the laws of 1802, 1804, and 1809. These schools soon became derisively known as "pauper schools". They became very unpopular because parents were unwilling to pauperize themselves by an open declaration to the county commissioners that they were unable to pay for their children's schooling. In fact, many parents much preferred their children to remain illiterate rather than request financial assistance.

The Free School Law of 1834, providing the opportunity for all the children of all the people between the ages of six and twenty-one to get a common school education at public expense, met with vigorous opposition on the part of the people of the county. The opposition was based on the dangers of excessive, unjust, and unequal taxation, forced education, the need of children to learn to work with their hands, and the belief that education tends to corrupt the people. Some of the church people objected because the free schools would interfere with the church schools. There was much ill-feeling in many communities because of the differences of opinion with respect to the free school law. Day laborers were threatened with non-employment and no pay if they voted for free schools. Even members of the same family became estranged sometimes, and neighborhood quarrels about the law were common occurrences. There is no gainsaying that the citizens of the territory now comprising Snyder County were overwhelmingly opposed to free schools. The opposition might have been much worse had it not been for the fact that the law was not mandatory. Districts were privileged to accept or reject the law according to the wish of the voters at township and borough elections.

Opposition to Free Schools

An anti-free school meeting was held in the courthouse in New Berlin, Thursday, September 18, 1834, to consider the state of affairs. After an organization had been effected, on a motion by the Honorable George Kremer, a committee of fifteen was appointed to draft resolutions expressive to the object of the meeting. The members of this committee of fifteen from the territory later known as Snyder County were the Honorable George

Kremer, Peter Richter, John Boyer, Frederick Kremer, Henry C. Eyer, and John Snyder. The remaining nine members came from territory now known as Union County. This committee drafted a series of resolutions:

(1) condemning the common school law as "dangerous to our rights and destructive to our interests, and to use every honorable means to procure its prompt repeal".

(2) providing for the appointment of two men from each township and borough to make a report at the next meeting on the returns for their district of the election of September 19, 1834, on the adoption or the rejection of the common school law.

(3) designating Tuesday, September 23, 1834, for the next meeting in the courthouse at New Berlin.

Pursuant to the decision of the meeting, the second meeting was held September 23, 1834, in the courthouse in New Berlin. Twenty-eight of the thirty delegates appointed as representatives of the townships and boroughs (the two from Centreville were absent) were present to make their report on the election returns of September 19, 1834. The results showed that the free school law had been overwhelmingly rejected by the voters of the county. The following are the election returns for the six townships of the county, later comprising Snyder County:

Districts	For the Law	Against the Law
1. Penn Township	55	198
2. Washington Township	0	85
3. Chapman Township	1	71
4. Perry Township	0	63
5. Centre Township	0	170
6. Beaver Township	0	192
Totals	56	779

The returns for the townships and boroughs of what became known later as Union County were not so one-sided as were those of the six districts of the territory later known as Snyder County.

The following table shows the returns of the two boroughs and the six townships.

Districts	For the Law	Against the Law
1. Lewisburg Borough	71	55
2. Mifflinburg Borough	41	67

3. Union Township*	0	205
4. East Buffalo Township	3	87
5. West Buffalo Township	7	187
6. Kelly Township	7	70
7. White Deer Township	52	26
8. Hartley Township	30	144
Totals	211	841

The total votes for the entire county in the election Friday, September 19, 1834, were 267 for free schools and 1620 against free schools. A committee of nine men was then appointed to draft resolutions representing the attitudes of the representatives of the various districts relative to the free school law of 1834. This committee reported resolutions which were unanimously adopted. The members of this committee from the area later known as Snyder County were the Honorable George Kremer (Centre), Henry Hilbish (Washington), and Peter Richter (Penn). The preamble expressed very significantly the prevailing reasons for the opposition such as the interference by the law with the rights of a free people; that the law was not in harmony with the Constitution; that it imposed an excessive tax-burden on the people since the county would have to raise twice the amount of the State Appropriation to entitle it to this appropriation; that many new schoolhouses would have to be built; that they would have to pay more teachers' salaries; and that there was already an excessive state debt. The resolutions as set forth by the committee provided:

(1) That five persons be appointed a committee to draw up a petition to be signed by the citizens of the county, praying the legislature to repeal the school law for Union County.

(2) That two persons be appointed in each township and borough who shall have authority to appoint as many more as may be needed in each district to circulate petitions and to solicit subscribers to the said petition.

(3) That a committee of five persons be appointed to correspond with committees in other counties to procure the repeal of the school law in the Commonwealth.

The petitions were circulated and were signed by many people in German script. Some who were unable to write made "their mark" instead. On some petitions more than half of the signatures were in the same handwriting. The law of 1834, however, was not repealed,

*Union Township in old Union County included the present Union Township of Union County, and portions of Jackson and Monroe Townships, Snyder County.

largely through the efforts of Thaddeus Stevens, a representative from Adams County, but the legislatures of 1835 and 1836, on account of so much opposition, materially amended and modified the law which finally led to its general acceptance.

In Union County, twelve of the fourteen districts rejected the free school law. This opposition was quite general in the counties that were prevailingly German. For example, thirty out of thirty-six districts in Berks County, eleven out of fourteen districts in Lehigh County, and nine districts in Lebanon County rejected free schools. The school law of 1838 carried the former provision of making the establishment of free schools wholly voluntary, but added that parochial schools might be the recipients of state appropriation. It was this provision that delayed the acceptance of free schools by all the districts for many years. In 1846 at least fourteen of the 177 non-accepting districts were found in counties with a German population. In 1854 the legislature repealed the provision for state aid to districts that maintained parochial schools. In 1868 there were only twenty-three non-accepting districts. The law of 1868 stated that districts that would accept free schools would be given all appropriation due them. At first only a few districts accepted, but the opportunity to accept was put to the voters from year to year. In course of time more districts accepted the law; some tried it for a short time, abandoned it, and later accepted it again. Probably Washington Township was the first district in the area now known as Snyder County to accept permanently free schools in 1843. In 1847 Beaver, Middlecreek, Union, Chapman, and Perry Townships had not yet accepted the common school system. The last district to accept was Beaver Township in 1849. The last district in the state, located in Wyoming County, did not accept the law until 1873.

Probably a great factor in the non-acceptance of the law was the common belief that the English Language was the only language permitted to be taught in the schools. The fact was, however, that a district was privileged to accept free schools and still continue the teaching of the mother tongue. The act making mandatory English as the only language was not passed until 1911. The general plan which was followed, however, was that the power rested in the school board, and if the school board would insist on English only, the only recourse for

parents would be to elect school directors who would carry out the wishes of the people with respect to the teaching of the German Language.

The High Schools of the County

The five high schools of the county today are the Selinsgrove, Middleburg, Freeburg, Beaver Vocational, and the West Beaver Township (McClure) High Schools. It is difficult to give definite dates for the opening of the high schools in Selinsgrove, Middleburg, and Freeburg. The first annual commencement* of the Selinsgrove High School was held in 1888. In 1922 the West Pine Street building was constructed to provide room for the increased enrollment, and in the fall of 1937, the senior high school building on Broad Street was opened. The Middleburg High School was organized at the beginning of the present century. The school records for 1900 state that A. R. Gilbert served as the principal of the Middleburg Schools, but they make no mention of a high school at that time. In the records of 1902, Gilbert is mentioned as the principal of the high school. The beginnings of the Freeburg High School are inseparably linked with the Freeburg Academy, particularly so prior to the year 1895. It is known that a high school organization was effected about 1890 with George W. Walborn as the principal. In 1926 it became a four-year high school. The Beaver Vocational High School was established in 1928 by the school districts of Spring and Beaver Townships and the Beavertown borough. Ira G. Sanders was its first principal. The West Beaver Township High School was organized in 1908 with a two-year curriculum. In 1914 the curriculum was lengthened to three years, in 1921 it was reduced to two years, and in 1928 it was made a four-year curriculum. Joseph Klingler was the first principal.

There were four additional high schools in the county at one time or another, but all of them have long since closed their doors. These smaller high schools were abandoned because they were unable to compete with the larger high schools in both maintenance costs and in educational efficiency. A two-year high school, known as the Spring Township High School, was opened at Beaver Springs in 1907 with M. M. Metzger as the principal. In the same year another two-year high school, known as the Beavertown High School, was organized at Beavertown

*Schnure's SELINSGROVE CHRONOLOGY

with Elmer E. Wetzel as the principal. These two high schools continued in operation until the organization of the Beaver Vocational High School in 1928. The Shamokin Dam High School opened in 1908 as a two-year high school with George W. Walborn as the first principal, but it was soon discontinued. In 1916 it was re-opened with Ira G. Sanders as the principal. This school remained open until 1939. Harry I. Frymire was the last principal. The Kreamer High School opened in 1921 with Roy W. Dietrich as the first principal. The school continued until 1926. Cloyd I. Fuhrman was the last principal.

High School Athletics

WEST BEAVER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL. The athletic program of the West Beaver Township High School is of comparatively recent origin. Prior to the organization of a four-year high school in 1928, the athletic activities were restricted practically to baseball and track. Upon the completion of the new high school building and gymnasium that year, the athletic program was enlarged and was given an increasing emphasis. Basketball for both boys and girls and soccer were added under the leadership of George Vought. From 1930 to 1939 the athletic program was handled by Sherman E. Good. During the two years following Marlin Collyer had charge of the athletic program. He was followed by Lawrence Lenig, and he continued until he was inducted into the army. During the war years the athletic program was limited to basketball and baseball, and even these were greatly restricted.

Beginning with 1945-46, the athletic activities were directed by Joseph Dodd. It was during this post-war period that the high school teams achieved their greatest successes. The school had three county championship soccer teams, and during the year 1947-48 captured the Central Pennsylvania Conference title at State College. The members of the three county championship soccer teams were: Donald Baker, John Bilger, Charles Bingaman, Lindy Bishop, Richard Conner, Elsworth Dean, Fern Goss, David Kline, Nelson Kline, Norman Kline, Richard Klingler, Gerald Knepp, Jack Knepp, Jack Morgan, Richard Sanders, Roy Swanger, Clair Wagner, Edward Wagner, Kenneth Wagner, and Rudolph Wagner. The basketball teams won three consecutive county championships and the District Four Championship for 1946-47. The members of the teams were: Donald Baker, John Bilger, Charles Bingaman, Richard Conner, Elsworth Dean, David Kline, Nelson Kline, Norman Kline, Richard Klingler, Gerald Knepp, Joseph Knepp, Jack Knepp, Jack Morgan, Roy Swanger, Kenneth Wagner, and Rudolph Wagner. The baseball team was able to win two consecutive county championships. The members of the team were: Donald Baker, John Bilger, Richard Conner, Elsworth Dean, John Hassinger, Nelson Kline, Norman Kline, Gerald Knepp, Joseph Knepp, Jack Knepp, Roy Swanger, Clair Wagner, Edward Wagner, Kenneth Wagner, and Rudolph Wagner.

BEAVER VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL. The athletic program was launched simultaneously with the establishment of the high school in 1928. Its first sport was soccer which was introduced by Arthur Townsend, teacher of agriculture in the high school. The athletic records of the school prior to 1937 are incomplete, but for the most part the coaching duties were assumed by Charles Felker, Charles Coleman, B. Paul Ross, and other members of the teaching staff. The boys'

sports for the years 1937 to 1948, with the exception of the years 1942 and 1943 when all sports were suspended because of emergency conditions, were baseball, basketball, and soccer. Marlin A. Shearer was the coach in all sports until 1947 when George P. Fetterolf succeeded him as coach in soccer, and John Slegeski, in 1948 in both baseball and basketball. The boys won the majority of the games in six of the ten seasons of baseball and basketball. County championships were won in boys' basketball in 1938 and 1940; in baseball in 1941, 1944, and 1945; and in soccer in 1940. The members of the county championship teams in boys' basketball in 1938 and 1940, and in soccer in 1940 were Andrew Bingaman, Guy Deamer, Robert Edmiston, Richard Eisenhauer, Gerald Erb, Wilmer Grimm, Harry Haines, Harry Hartman, Donald Klinepeter, Russel Markley, Bob Middleswarth, Stanley Ritter, Stoy Spigelmyer, Robert Thomas, and Joseph Treaster. The members of the county championship team in baseball in 1941 were: Robert Edmiston, Gerald Erb, Carl Halye, Samuel Herman, William Markley, Jr., Bob Middleswarth, Myron Norman, Glenn Pawling, Robert Reichenbach, William Saylor, Glenn Smith, Stoy Spigelmyer, and Robert Thomas. The members of the county championship teams in baseball in 1944 and 1945 were: Donald Bailey, Richard Bingaman, John Booney, Ned Felker, William Felker, Gerald Fitzgerald, Jacque Folk, Raymond Hommel, Paul Kline, Robert Markley, Dale Musser, Kenneth Narehood, and Myron Norman.

FREEBURG HIGH SCHOOL. The high school first entered the field of sports in 1925 in the Snyder County Interscholastic Track and Field Meet with a team coached by Eugene Stoudt. Two members of the team, Melvin Miller and Lawrence Acker, achieved county records in the 440-yard dash and in the baseball throw. Baseball was organized in 1928 with Principal Russell E. Klinger as the coach, and in the following year soccer was started with Eugene Stoudt as the coach. Frederick C. Moyer served as the coach of all the major sports from 1933 to 1937. Upon the completion of the gymnasium in 1937, basketball for both boys and girls was added to the sports program with Principal Russell E. Klinger as the coach. In 1937-39 Henry B. Shaffer served as the coach of soccer and baseball. In 1938-39 John Kreeger was the coach of all sports except the girls' basketball team which was coached by Principal Klinger. Robert M. Bastress became the athletic coach in 1939, and served until 1942 when he was inducted into the army. Principal Ralph E. Geigle succeeded him for 1942-43, and he was in turn succeeded by Charles Glass in 1943-44. During the next two years Paul Roush and Robert Workman had charge of the sports program. Robert M. Bastress resumed the principalship of the high school, together with his coaching duties, upon his return from the army.

While there have not been relatively many athletic championships for the Freeburg High School, its teams have been consistently runners-up in the Snyder County League contests. In the 1944-45 basketball season the boys' team won the league championship. The members of the team were: Richard Hoke, Ernest Hoover, Boyer Kantz, George Kissinger, Raymond Moyer, Richard Reigle, Elmer Scholl, Paul Snyder, Richard Snyder, Amos Swartz, Frank Troutman, and Boyd Wilt. In 1948 the basketball team won the County League Championship. The members of this team were: Leonard Bordner, Earl Courtney, Lawrence Garman, Richard Graybill, William Hoffman, Elroy Mengle, Leon Miller, William Ritter, Donald Snyder, Wade Snyder, Frank Troutman, and Carl Winey. The girls' basketball teams have been consistent winners over a period of some years.

MIDDLEBURG HIGH SCHOOL. The first team in competition as an official representative of Middleburg was organized in 1894. In

the early spring of that year, thirty largely inexperienced but willing baseball players began training on a small island in Middle Creek about one-fourth mile west of the town. Accepting a challenge issued by New Berlin, they played their first game on Saturday, July 14, on the Israel Bachman farm, just west of the present Community Field. The final score was 36 to 0 in favor of the visitors. The Middleburg battery was Lester C. Bachman and James Deitrich. Since no regular catcher's mitt was available, a substitute was fashioned from a rubber boot, which provided a scant protection for Deitrich. Only the second baseman, A. Francis Gilbert, had had previous diamond experience, and, as a result, the press was able to sum up the game in the following concise manner: "A great deal of loose playing and considerable fumbling was done and that accounts for the score." This was the beginning of baseball in Middleburg.

For nearly twenty years the high school students observed the games of the community teams without being privileged to have one of their own. It was not until 1915 that they were able to form a squad, and then without the official sanction or financial backing of the Board of School Directors. The first team had for its captain and pitcher, Russell A. G. Stetler. Other members of the original nine were Dean Graybill, Evan P. Hassinger, Harry F. Reigle, Elstun Snyder, Luther Walter, and Dewey Winey. Sometime after 1920 the Board of School Directors began to give more than mere moral support to the players, and the sport became recognized as a regular part of the school's activities. W. Earl Thomas was employed as the first coach in the fall of 1925, and during that year he turned out one of the strongest teams the high school ever had. Nine games were won during the season with such strong opponents as the Susquehanna Junior Varsity, the Bucknell Freshmen, Sunbury, Northumberland, and Mifflinburg. The team members were: Miles D. Erdley, Ray T. Reichenbach, James G. Thompson, Jr., Sherman E. Good, William S. Hermann, Robert M. Graybill, Marlin H. Brunner, Allen J. Snyder, and Curtis R. Diffenderfer. Both Good and Diffenderfer were members of the pitching staff.

Middleburg won her share of victories during the years following. In 1936 she tied Selinsgrove for the top position in the Snyder County League (formed in 1932) under the leadership of Coach William S. Hermann and garnered a non-defeated league championship in 1941 by winning ten games during the season. The members of the latter nine were: Charles W. Steininger, Richard E. Felker, Joseph Kratzer, George B. Pearson, George E. Hood, William L. Witmer, Thomas Graybill, Stanley P. Houser, Joseph W. Stout, Jr., Gordon E. Arbogast, Fred H. Attinger, and Elmer Ernest. The 1942 team also was a good one, losing only the first game of the season, and then going to another championship. The performances of a number of the players over the years were of such high calibre that it was not at all unexpected when Lester Mitchell, Herbert W. Sampsel, and Joseph Kratzer advanced to professional baseball.

The first Track and Field Meet in Snyder County was organized by Fred Kohler, principal of the Middleburg High School, and was staged near the present Community Field in October, 1921. Teams from four high schools participated. Middleburg garnered sixty-two points; Beaver Springs, twenty-six points; Beavertown, nineteen points; and McClure, eight points. In the 1922 meet Middleburg scored 101 points; McClure, thirty-one points; Beavertown, seventeen points; and Beaver Springs, five points. The outstanding performer of the McClure team was Elwood Albert who competed in seven events and captured for his team its entire total. These meets proved to be the forerunner of the Snyder County Interscholastic Track and Field Meet, which was founded in 1925, and which was always held on the Susquehanna University Field.

During the first six years of competition, Middleburg could count only one victory. This occurred in 1927 when the countyseat lads, coached by Carl E. Slaybaugh, won over their closest opponent, Selinsgrove, fifty-four to thirty-eight. James G. Thompson, Jr., accumulated twenty-one points and set a county record of 23.2 seconds in the 220-yard dash, a record which has not been lowered to this day. In 1927, Thompson made the 120-yard hurdles in 16.1 seconds. From 1931 in 1934 the Middleburg teams were coached by Thompson, and won the county title each year, breaking county records no less than ten times. Among the outstanding athletes during these years may be mentioned Kenneth L. Badger, James B. Diffenderfer, James R. Ramer, Herbert W. Sampsel, Joseph A. Snook, Guy E. Snyder, and Orville Walters. Sampsel was particularly outstanding and was recognized the best all-around track man ever to compete for Middleburg. He held school records (1934) in the broad jump (21' 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ "") and in the pole vault (10' 9"). Snook (1927) held school records in the high jump (5' 8"); Walters (1934), in the 880-yard run in 2:13.5; Guy E. Hummel (1925), in the 100-yard hurdles in 13.2, and the standing broad jump of 9' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in 1926; Ray T. Reichenbach, Glenn H. Clark, Samuel Osgood, Theodore Felker (1927), one-mile relay in 4:07.1; Fern E. Good, John P. M. Benner, Kenneth L. Badger, James R. Ramer (1932), medley relay in 3:50; and Guy E. Snyder (1934), pole vault 10' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". When events for girls were included in the 1932 program, a team was entered which won the county championship in that year as well as in 1933 and 1934. Track in the county was discontinued in 1938 primarily on account of the inability of the smaller schools to engage simultaneously in two spring sports.

Basketball for both boys and girls was introduced in the winter of 1925-26 with W. Earl Thomas as the coach. Up to 1941 when the new gymnasium was built, the progress of the sport was greatly hindered because of cramped quarters for practice and games. The first team was captained by Sherman E. Good. Among the players were Curtis R. Diffenderfer, Lloyd Garman, Robert M. Graybill, Guy E. Hummel, Ray T. Reichenbach, and Harold E. Roush. In 1932 the team did quite well in the Snyder-Mifflin League, under the tutelage of Coach Allen J. Snyder, and again in 1933 in the Susquehanna Valley League. Members of the teams were: Kenneth Badger, Brite O. Bilger, James B. Diffenderfer, Lloyd Garman, Gene S. Kratzer, James R. Ramer, Donald Roush, Herbert W. Sampsel, and Joseph A. Snook. The squads for 1942 and 1943, coached by William S. Hermann, were made up of Fred H. Attinger, Jack L. Bachman, Arthur Erb, Jr., Richard E. Felker, John Grimm, Stanley P. Houser, George B. Pearson, and Charles W. Steininger. They played their first full season in 1942 in the new gymnasium, winning a county championship. Eleven games out of sixteen were won in 1943, victories being scored over Freeburg, Lewistown, McClure, Mifflinburg, Northumberland, Selinsgrove, and Watsontown. Julia Kratzer (Thompson) served as captain for the first two years. In the second year, the girls succeeded in winning eleven games out of sixteen over such schools as Burnham, Mifflinburg, Northumberland, Lewisburg, Selinsgrove, and Sunbury. From 1939 to 1942, they captured county championships. They were undefeated in 1943, not being a member of any league that season.

Being too small for football and desiring to fill a gap in the athletic year, Middleburg, under the leadership of Coach Carl E. Slaybaugh, in 1929 joined a number of county schools in introducing soccer as a fall sport. In 1930 the county championship was won, but the tournament was lost. In the same year was formed the Central Pennsylvania Soccer Tournament with Coach Allen J. Snyder as chairman and the Pennsylvania State College as the sponsoring organization. In 1931 the team won another county championship as well as the Central

Pennsylvania Tournament, defeating State College, Centre Hall, and Millheim. The members of the teams for 1930-32 were: Kenneth L. Badger, John P. M. Benner, Brite O. Bilger, James B. Diffenderfer, Lloyd Garman, Robert Gill, Fern E. Good, Maurice Heiser, Charles G. Jones, Gene S. Kratzer, Woodrow R. Mattern, Max McAfee, James R. Ramer, Donald Roush, Herbert W. Sampsel, Samuel Snyder, William Snyder, and Durand Stetler. The 1932 season ended in a tie for county honors with the Beaver Vocational, but on the basis of comparative scores, Middleburg was chosen to represent the county in the Central Pennsylvania Tournament. Entering with ten consecutive victories, the team won the tournament title for the second year. In 1941 Coach Hermann's county champions won the Central Pennsylvania Soccer Tournament for the third time, thus gaining permanent possession of the trophy. The team members were: Fred H. Attinger, Gordon Arbogast, Richard E. Felker, John Grimm, William Hartman, George E. Hood, Stanley P. Houser, George B. Pearson, Charles W. Steininger, Walter Travelet, Jr., and William L. Witmer. Soccer was discontinued during the war years, but was revived again in 1945.

SELINSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL. Baseball in the high school was introduced in the spring of 1927, and continued until 1928, when the sport was suspended because of lack of financial backing. After an interval of six years, baseball was started again and has continued to the present day. Despite the fact that the teams have been above the average with respect to games won, the records do not indicate a championship team. Basketball was an early sport in the high school since the college gymnasium was placed at the disposal of the high school team for game purposes. A vacant classroom in the Old Pine Street School Building was used for practice as early as 1908. The teams between 1910 and 1914, were particularly strong, and a feature of the basketball season was for the team to go on trips covering two or three days at a time. Sometimes the team played two games on the same day. The team in 1912 was an outstanding one; and was composed of Edward Phillips, Bay Bulick, Calvin Witmer, Paul Houseworth, and Brewster Schoch. The 1933 team won the Susquehanna League championship. It was coached by Harold L. Bolig and was composed of the following players: Rennel Edmunds, Richard Forster, Francis Gelnet, Max Kaler, Jack Kaler, Gerald Lax, Fred Machmer, Henry Mitterling, and William Plummer. Coach Thomas A. Valunas had a very successful basketball team in 1945 when they were the runner-ups in the Susquehanna League. The members of the squad were: George Hepner, Kenneth Mease, Orlander Nolder, John Reitz, Chester Rowe, Charles Salter, and Robert Sheetz. The 1948 team, coached by Blair Heaton, achieved an excellent record and was in competition for the League Championship, but was eliminated by Sunbury.

Separate from the local high school team, the town had a team of its own during the early 20's called the Keystone Club composed of ex-high school players. It was an amateur organization that met all comers and usually succeeded in defeating them. Among the Keystone Players may be named: Harold L. Bolig, Elmer Haines, Reno Knouse, Kenneth Moyer, Clarence Updegrove, George A. Spaid, and Robert Wendt.

Even though the local college provided the field for football practice and game purposes since the closing years of the last century, it was not until the year 1926 that an official football team represented the Selinsgrove High School. Since no financial support was provided by the Board of School Directors, the high school students raised funds for the purchase of uniforms and other equipment necessary to put a team into the field. The team was coached by Martin L. Beamenderfer. The schedule for the first year consisted of a total of

four games only. The team won two games and lost two games. In 1927 the School Board employed Harold L. Bolig as the coach of all sports, and at the same time provided funds for the operation of football, basketball, baseball, and track. The football teams proved quite successful as evidenced by the fact that they had won twenty-nine games before being defeated by Bloomsburg in 1930. During the sixteen years of football (1927-1943), Coach Bolig produced four undefeated teams in the seasons of 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1932. Among the members of these undefeated teams may be named: Paul Bingaman, Nelson Bolig, Lansford Bowen, Roy Bolig, Ralph Brouse, Irvin Coldren, Wayne Daubenspeck, Richard Fisher, Charles Forster, Warren Groce, Calvin Houtz, Jack Kaler, Max Kaler, David Kelley, Maynard Kemp, Raymond Kerstetter, Marshall Long, Mark Lytle, Willard Maginnis, Luther Miller, George Oberdorf, Albert Ott, Seiler Phillips, Fred Richter, Lee D. Rishel, Ernest Rowe, Robert Shadle, James Sholley, Harold Stauffer, and Marvin Wentzel. In more recent years, 1944 proved to be the best year when all games were won except the game with South Williamsport. Since 1943, Thomas A. Volunas has served as the football coach. The 1943 team was very successful, winning six of the seven games of the season. The members were: Harold Aurand, David Coryell, Glenn Hollenbach, Charles Jarrett, Daniel Reitz, John Reitz, Chester Rowe, Reuben Shaffer, Richard Shaffer, Robert Shultz, William Wendt, Fred VanKirk, and Wayne VanKirk. Most of the larger high schools in this area have been the opponents of the Selinsgrove High School.

Selinsgrove High School participated in the Snyder County Interscholastic Track and Field Meet from 1925 to 1937, inclusive. In these thirteen years of participation, the high school came out ahead eight times and Middleburg five times. Many of the members of the local teams went to the district and state contests and there made a commendable showing.

School Consolidation

In the early twenties, the rural school consolidation movement began in the county. At the present time there are six consolidated schools in the county: McClure, Beaver Springs, Troxelville, Hassinger, Kreamer, and the Monroe Township Consolidated School. The first one-room rural school was closed in 1916. Since that time thirty-nine other one-room schools of the county have been closed. By 1930 the three townships of Spring, Beaver, and West Beaver had completely consolidated their schools and Monroe Township had partial consolidation. Decreased enrollment of pupils in the rural districts and the desire of the people for better educational facilities further decreased the number of one-room rural schools. The present method of paying state appropriation penalizes school districts having one-room schools with small enrollment. The prolonged depression in the thirties together with the World War II slowed up the consolidation movement. The school legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 1947 requires counties to submit plans to the State Department for the re-organization of attendance

areas and administrative units. This requirement will again accelerate the consolidation movement.



Krouse's Schoolhouse in Middlecreek Township, erected in 1874, the school directors were Reuben Benfer, Joel Bilger, George Bolig, Benjamin J. Kreamer, John Meiser, and Benjamin J. Oblinger.

Closed in 1947 by School Consolidation

Statistical Information About the Public Schools of the County

In the original Beaver Township embracing what are now Beaver, West Beaver, Adams, Spring, and portions of Franklin and Centre Townships there were at least seven schoolhouses about the year 1820. Before the adoption of free schools by the county there was only one school in Freeburg and Washington Township, and about fifteen schoolhouses in the entire county. Out of seventeen school districts in 1847, eleven districts reported forty-five schools in operation for a term of five months. There were forty-four male teachers and seven female teachers, the former receiving \$20.17 per month and the latter, \$9.83 per month. The number of pupils was 1601 males and 1766 females. In 1842 there was only one higher institution of learning in the County, but in 1867 there were three: Susquehanna Female College, Missionary Institute, and the Freeburg Academy.

Statistical Information About the Public Schools of the County (1856)

	Number of Schools	Length of Term	No. Male Teachers	No. Female Teachers	Av. monthly salary of Male Teachers	Av. monthly salary of Female Teachers	Number of pupils	Tax levied for school purposes	State Appropriation	Cost of Instruction per pupil per month
1. Beaver	12	4	10	2	20½	17.60	542	1081	\$121	.44
2. West Beaver	10	4	10	0	18		317	700	87	.53
3. Centre	7	4	6	1	19	14	295	490	67	.43
4. Chapman	13	4	13	0	20		600	1100	110	.43
5. Franklin	8	4	8	0	21½		1254	872	102	.43
6. Jackson	6	4	6	0	21 1/3		219	588	62	.58
7. Middlecreek	4	4	4	0	20		178	323	47	.44
8. Penn	13	4	13	0	20		499	1165	137	.52
9. Perry	8	4	8	0	18½		324	719	100	.48
10. Selinsgrove	6	6	3	3	33 1/3	15	349	1200	100	.41
11. Washington	9	4	9	0	19½		380	696	96	.83

Statistical Information About the Public Schools of the County (1856-1920)

	1856	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920
1. Number of Schools	96	95	102	111	115	126	129	103
2. Average No. Months Taught	4	4.07	4 06	5.07	6.07	7.05	7.14	7.5
3. Number of Male Teachers	90	91	95	106	94	104	93	69
4. Number of Female Teachers	6	4	7	12	21	23	37	64
5. Average monthly salary of Male Teachers	21.06	18.74	27.83	22.01	23.61	26.11	45.78	*73.00
								**123.00
6. Average monthly salary of Female Teachers	15.53	15.33	25.00	20.83	22.11	25.93	43.12	*67.00
								**97.00
7. Number of Male Pupils	2713	2410	2694	2735	2456	2463	2128	1880
8. Number of Female Pupils	2244	1875	2114	2292	2193	2232	1834	1784
9. Number of Pupils Studying German	205	74	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Average Number attending School	2857	2694	3459	3176	3113	3013	2859	3186
11. Average Cost of teaching pupils per month	.50	.47	.72	.54	.60	1.05	2.05	4.64
12. Tax in mills on dollar	2.9	2.66	5.28	3.48	4.39	4.43	6.36	15
13. Amount of tax levied for School Purposes	\$8937	9171	15809	18298	23133	15594	34111	60223
14. Amount of State Appropriation	\$1034	1217	1665	3584	5623	21283	28733	40009

* Elementary

** Secondary

Statistical Information About the Public Schools of the County (1925-1945)

	1925	1930	1940	1945
1. No. of School Buildings	90	84	77	76
2. No. of Elem. Teachers	127	121	115	112
3. No. of High School Teachers	6	33	42	46
4. No. of Supervising Principals	2	2	3	3
5. No. of Male Teachers	84	85	79	68
6. No. of Female Teachers	51	71	78	90
7. Pupil Enrollment	4163	4331	4322	4030
8. Av. Daily Attendance	3202	3682	3853	3678
9. Av. Length of School Term in Days	161	164*	164*	180*
		180**	180**	180**
10. Av. Annual Salary of Elementary Teachers	\$762	\$840	\$825	\$1,405
11. Av. Annual Salary of Secondary Teachers	\$1,066	\$1,545	\$1,361	\$1,762
12. Av. Mills School Tax	8.2	11	13	15
13. Total Receipts in Tax	\$110,731	\$146,773	\$148,785	\$147,335.00
14. State Appropriation	\$ 57,566	\$ 92,014	\$122,673	\$234,478.10

* Elementary

** Secondary

Statistical Information About the School Districts of the County for 1884 and 1912

1884

1912

School Districts	1884										1912									
	No. of Schools	Length of Term	No. Male Teachers	No. Female Teachers	Av. Monthly Salary of Male Teachers	Av. Monthly Salary of Female Teachers	No. of Pupils	Tax Levied for School Purposes	State Appropriation	Cost of Instruction per Pupil per Month	No. of Schools	Length of Term	No. Male Teachers	No. Female Teachers	Av. Monthly Salary of Male Teachers	Av. Monthly Salary of Female Teachers	No. of Pupils	Tax Levied for School Purposes	State Appropriation	Cost of Instruction per Pupil per Month
Adams	7	5	7	0	25	—	322	2,101	143	.94	6	7	5	1	46	50	143	1,248*	1,236	2.43
Beaver	9	5	6	3	26	22 2/3	362	1,442	245	.72	7	7	5	2	49	45	222	1,890	1,300	1.73
West Beaver	10	5	10	0	22	—	369	1,133	249	.71	9	7	3	6	45	40	252	2,280	1,964	2.14
Centre	6	5	6	0	24	—	287	1,743	196	.59	7	7	6	1	46 2/3	40	188	1,678	1,549	1.75
Chapman	6	5	6	0	22	—	301	788	192	.48	7	7	7	0	47 1/8	—	227	1,415	1,537	2.11
Franklin	8	5	8	0	22	—	325	1,014	231	.64	10	7	6	4	42 1/3	40	278	2,593	1,860	1.38
Jackson	5	5	5	0	20	—	169	520	122	.82	5	7	2	3	46	50	142	1,471	1,063	1.50
Middleburg	2	6	1	1	38	28	95	388	112	.94	4	8	3	1	55	40	107	1,832	820	4.63
Middlecreek	4	5	4	0	22	—	173	430	144	.65	5	7	4	1	45	40	157	2,003	1,053	1.80
Monroe	8	5	6	2	28	28	293	1,295	238	.91	8	7	6	2	45	40	278	2,111	1,706	2.07
Penn	9	5	9	0	22	—	420	2,050	230	.54	9	7	6	3	46 2/3	46 2/3	284	2,482	2,061	2.05
Perry	8	5	6	2	21	21	370	1,751	199	.55	9	7	6	3	43 1/3	46 2/3	222	2,172	1,641	2.20
West Perry	4	5	4	0	24	—	205	614	111	.54	5	7	5	0	42	—	160	1,210	1,078	2.64
Selinsgrove	6	7	5	2	38 1/3	26 1/4	354	2,695	289	.78	8	9	1	7	100	52.86	307	3,243	1,892	2.32
Spring**																				
Union	8	5	6	2	22	22	373	1,962	218	.56	10	7	7	3	46 3/4	43 1/3	268	2,100	2,207	1.92
Washington	10	5	8	2	22	18	367	1,354	274	.53	8	7	7	1	48.57	40	266	1,947	1,683	2.30
Evendale	2	5	2	2	28	—	71	630	61	.89	11	7	6	5	53 1/3	44	227	2,748	2,426	3.82
TOTAL	112	5.12	99	14	25.08	23.70	4,845	21,918	3,262	.69	128	7.15	85	43	43.91	37.28	34,130	34,130	27,082	2.34
* Amount in cents is \$1,248.44																				
** Not formed until 1885																				

** Not formed until 1885

* Amount in cents is \$1,248.44

County Superintendent of Schools

An Act of the Assembly, passed May 15, 1854, made provision for a county superintendent of schools, whose duty was to visit periodically the schools of the county, to note the subjects and the methods of instruction, to give such instruction as may be deemed necessary for the improvement of the schools, and to examine candidates for teaching. These examinations were conducted in different places throughout the county usually at about a dozen places. The superintendent was elected by a majority vote of the school directors of the county for a term of three years.

The office met with much opposition from the very beginning from the people of the county, and especially from the teachers. If the people would have had the opportunity to express themselves at an election, even twenty years later, the office would have been abolished by a large majority. The people could see no direct benefit of having such an official. Professor Daniel S. Boyer, County Superintendent (1857-1860), tells of a meeting in one of the schoolhouses of the county, held for the purpose of explaining to the people the purpose of the office, that there was so much manifest opposition in the nature of noise and rowdiness produced by the crowd in opposition to the office, that he was not even privileged to speak, and that no organization could be effected. Some of the persons had fifes or drums to interfere with any speaking, should it be attempted. When Professor Boyer and his friends left the schoolhouse, the hoodlums "followed them blowing their fifes and beating drums and yelling like so many savages". A certain amount of this general opposition continued until about the last decade of the nineteenth century.

Some of the teachers took the position that they had taught "so long satisfactorily to their patrons without any espionage, and that they did not need it now; that the office was an unnecessary expense, of no benefit to the county, and evidently only another step towards despotism". Happily, public sentiment gradually changed in favor of the law, and in course of the years, the county superintendent became a welcome visitor in the several communities and at educational meetings.

The office of County Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County during the ninety-two years of its existence has been filled by fifteen different men. These

school officials have been consistently capable men, generally well-educated, and possessed of a high sense of social responsibility. The people of the county can well afford to take pride in their county superintendents. A brief biographical sketch of each superintendent follows so that the citizens may have a more appreciative understanding of their lives and public services.

Biographical Sketches of the County Superintendents of Schools

Dr. Jacob S. Whitman (1854-1855)

Dr. Jacob S. Whitman, A. M., M. D., was born near Pottstown, Penna., September 12, 1827. He was educated at Marshall College, graduating in 1849. He entered the teaching profession and taught in various schools and academies. He served as the principal of the Berrysburg, Boyertown, and Freeburg Academies. He was principal of the Freeburg Academy at the time of his election to the county superintendency. The annual salary was \$300. He served about one year when he resigned in order to devote his full time to the Freeburg Academy. In 1856 he became professor of Natural Science at the Union Seminary in New Berlin.

Between 1859-1866 he was professor of the Natural Sciences at the Farmers' High School (now Pennsylvania State College), vice-president thereof (1864-1866), and president for a year. From 1867 to 1870, he was professor of the Natural Sciences in Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas. In the spring of 1871, he became the principal of the Lyndon Schools in Kansas, remaining there eight years. He was a member of the faculty of the State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas. In 1879-1880 he served as a County Superintendent of Schools in Kansas. He held the A. M. and the M. D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Jefferson Medical College. For the last twenty years of his life, he was engaged in the drug business in Lyndon, Kansas. He died at Lyndon, August 12, 1894.

David Heckendorn (1855-1857)

David Heckendorn was born July 8, 1824, at Pisgah Valley, Perry County, Pennsylvania. He was a student at the Mifflinburg Academy in 1850. He taught school for a time. He was married to the daughter of Dr. Isaac Rothrock, Adamsburg, Pa. In May, 1854, he was nominated for the county superintendency in a convention of school directors, but he declined the office. He was instrumental in organizing the County Teachers' Institutes in Union County. In August, 1855, he was appointed County Superintendent of Schools of Union County in place of Whitman who resigned. He served in that capacity from August 10, 1855, to June 3, 1857. His salary was \$300 per year. Upon the expiration of his term of office, he moved to New Berlin where he resided until his death. In May, 1857, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Union County, and at the expiration of his term in 1860, he was re-elected and completed an additional term. He died soon after the expiration of his term of office. He was a faithful, energetic, and efficient school man. Heckendorn was loved and respected for his many noble qualities by the teachers and patrons of the schools. He walked most of the time on his official school visits. In 1859, he had Frances E. Willard as one of his teachers' institute instructors, and entertained her in his New Berlin home. He is buried in New Berlin, Pennsylvania.

Daniel S. Boyer (1857-1860) (1886-1887)

Daniel S. Boyer was undoubtedly the most widely-known man throughout the county in his day. He was born in Freeburg, June 9, 1827. He was a pupil in the subscription schools of his native place, attended the Classical Institute at Berrysburg, began teaching school in his native town at the age of sixteen, and continued teaching for ten successive school terms. In 1857 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County, and served one term of three years, from June, 1857, to June, 1860. At the Directors' Convention, May, 1857, the school directors agreed to pay him annually \$200, but at a subsequent meeting they rescinded their action and raised his salary to \$500 instead.

During his term of office, Boyer was a strong advocate of local teachers' institutes. He delivered many educational addresses in the county, served successively as the assistant teacher to the Principal of the Freeburg Academy for many years, and then was elected to the principalship of the Academy in 1861, which position he held for ten years. It was during his principalship that the Academy became very widely known as an educational institution.

Professor Boyer was a public-spirited citizen in every way. He was the president and secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Academy for twenty-one years. He also served as the Justice of the Peace of Washington Township for many years. He was a clerk in the Auditor General's Department at Harrisburg. For five years he was the Secretary of the Snyder County Agricultural Society, and for eight years President of the Union Agricultural Association. In 1867 he built a large town hall as a public meeting place for the community. It was used for that purpose until it was destroyed by fire in 1894.

He was much interested in local history and wrote many articles on that topic for the county newspapers. In May, 1885, he was chosen to deliver the historical address at the unveiling of the Governor Snyder Monument in Selinsgrove. He wrote a series of articles on the life of the governor, which were published in the SELINSGROVE TIMES, March-June, 1882. In 1886 he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Major William H. Dill as County Superintendent, serving until May, 1887, when Charles W. Herman was elected. He died at his home in Freeburg, October 2, 1899, at the age of 72 years, 3 months, and 23 days.

Samuel Alleman (1860-1863)

Samuel Alleman, Esquire, was born in Lancaster County in 1818. He came from a poor, but religious and industrious parentage. He was the oldest of a family of three brothers and two sisters. The three sons of the family became a lawyer, doctor, and minister respectively. He received his college education at the Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg). After teaching school for a number of years, he began the study of law in Harrisburg, and was admitted to the Dauphin County bar in 1845. During the administration of Governor William F. Johnston (1848-1852), he served as the chief clerk in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In 1856 he came to Snyder County to take up the practice of law. In 1860 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools, and served one term, from June, 1860, to June, 1863, receiving a salary of \$400.

In 1865 he moved from Middleburg to Selinsgrove. He served as a member of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, representing Union, Snyder, and Lycoming Counties, during the legislative session of 1864-1865. While a member of the House he introduced the bill providing for the incorporation of the Middlecreek Valley Railroad Com-

pany, later known as the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad Company. He also introduced the bill providing for the immediate removal of the county-seat from Middleburg to Selinsgrove. Because of a division in the board of county commissioners and the opposition from the central and western end of the county, the purpose of the act was never accomplished. From 1870-1871, he served as the secretary of the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad Company.

He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove. His practice of law was on a very large scale. He resided in the Governor Snyder Mansion from 1865 until his death February 28, 1881. He is buried in the Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery of Selinsgrove. A massive granite monument marks his grave. Samuel Alleman, Esquire, was loved and respected for his ability, integrity, and usefulness as a public-spirited citizen of the community.

William Moyer (1863-1872) (1881-1884)

William Moyer was born in Freeburg September 27, 1834. During his youth he was employed on a farm, clerked in a store and hotel, and learned the marble-cutting trade which vocation he followed during much of his life. He attended the local schools and continued his education in the Classical Institute at Berrysburg, and in the Berrysburg, Tuscarora, and Freeburg Academies. He taught in the schools of his native village for four successive school terms of four months each (1854-1857) in a double-brick schoolhouse located on the present site of the Lutheran and Reformed Church. He served as a teacher of vocal music in Juniata, Snyder, Union, Dauphin, and Northumberland Counties. For many years he was the head of the Vocal Music Department of the local Musical College, and served as the Director of the Annual Choir Conventions.

In 1863 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools, and was re-elected in 1866 and 1869. In 1881 he was elected for the fourth term. His salary was \$500 per year. In 1879 Franklin and Marshall College conferred upon him the A. M. degree. In 1858 he was elected County Surveyor for a term of three years. In 1862 he was chosen Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the local academy and served for twenty-one years. He was commissioned a Notary Public by Governors Curtin and Geary (1864-1876). He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1875, 1880, and 1885. He served sixty-nine years (1855-1924) consecutively as one of the Superintendents of the Lutheran and Reformed Sunday School of Freeburg, a record perhaps unparalleled in Pennsylvania. He died May 24, 1924, and is buried in the Fairview Cemetery, Freeburg.

William Noetling (1872-1877)

William Noetling was born near Lewisburg, Union County, July 8, 1830. He attended the public schools until he was sixteen years old. He learned first the carpenter's trade, then he decided to continue his education, attending the Mifflinburg Academy. He was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, with the degrees of A.B. and C.E. He served as an instructor at the Missionary Institute, and was principal of the Susquehanna Female College (1868-1873). In May, 1872, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County, and in 1875 was unanimously re-elected for a second term. His salary was \$500 a year. During his second term, he resigned October, 1877, upon completing the teachers' examinations, to become Professor of Pedagogy at the Bloomsburg State Normal School. Professor Noetling was a popular institute lecturer. He was the author of "Notes on the Science and Art of Education" and "Geometry, Construc-

tive and Inductive". He died in Selinsgrove June 16, 1918, at the age eighty-seven years.

William P. Scharf (1877-1881)

William P. Scharf was born in Selinsgrove in July, 1849. He received his education in the schools of his native town and at Missionary Institute. In 1869 he began teaching school in Penn Township, and later taught in Monroe Township and in the Selinsgrove borough. At the age of twenty-three, he began the study of law under the tutelage of Charles Hower, Esquire, and was admitted to the Snyder County Bar two years later. It appears that he was much more interested in teaching than in the practice of law since he began teaching again in Monroe Township and in the borough of Selinsgrove, during the superintendencies of Noetling and Moyer. In October, 1877, while he was teaching in Selinsgrove, he was appointed county superintendent of schools to fill the unexpired term of Professor Noetling who had resigned to accept a position on the faculty of the Bloomsburg State Normal School. In May, 1878, he was elected County Superintendent over Major William H. Dill of Freeburg, and served one term. His salary was \$1,000 per year. He was the first County Superintendent to receive this amount. In the campaign for the superintendency in 1881, Moyer, Dill, and Scharf, were the competing candidates. Moyer was elected for the term (1881-1884). Upon his retirement from the superintendency, he entered the United States railway mail service on the North Central Railway, and continued in that service until failing health compelled him to retire. He died at his home in Selinsgrove, March 15, 1918.

William H. Dill (1884-1886)

William H. Dill was born in Orange County, New York, in 1842. He was educated at Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J. He served during the Civil War, first as a private in Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth New York Volunteers. He was successively promoted as sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and major. He was honorably discharged from the army at the close of the war. In 1867 he became a resident of Freeburg, first serving as an assistant principal of the Academy and in 1873 as the principal of the Academy. In the meantime he studied law in the office of H. H. Grimm, Esquire, and was admitted to the bar in 1876. In 1884 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools. He died in office in 1886. Professor Daniel S. Boyer was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

Major Dill was one of Freeburg's most distinguished citizens, and those who knew him personally always spoke of him in the highest terms of his ability, culture, and Christian character. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery at Freeburg where an imposing monument was erected to his memory by the subscriptions of the public school children and adults of the county. A resolution was adopted by the Snyder County Teachers' Institute in 1886 commendatory of Major Dill's valuable contribution to the cause of education in Snyder County and urging all the teachers to do all they could to raise a sufficient sum of money to erect a suitable monument to his memory. At the Institute Session of 1887, County Superintendent Charles W. Herman appointed a committee consisting of A. M. Wonder, G. W. Walborn, and G. W. Portzline to make the necessary arrangements for its unveiling the following year. The monument was unveiled May 1, 1888. Several thousand people were present to honor the memory of the man. A large parade started from Boyer's Hall, consisting of bands, posts, Fraternal Organizations, and the general populace. A stage was erected in the

cemetery for the exercises. Frank Glass, Esquire, read a paper on the life and character of Major Dill. General Daniel H. Hastings, later Governor of Pennsylvania (1895-1899), gave an address on the military career of Major Dill, and Deputy State Superintendent, Henry Houck, discussed Major Dill as a public speaker and schoolman.

Charles W. Herman (1887-1893)

Charles W. Herman was born on a farm in Jackson Township, November 2, 1856, and as a boy engaged in all kinds of farm work. In 1873, at the age of seventeen, he embarked on a teaching career which vocation he followed for seven years, teaching in the winter months, attending school in the spring term, and working on the farm during the summer. Three of these years he taught in Penn Township, Snyder County, and two years each in Hancock County, Ohio, and in Kansas. In 1880 he enrolled in Missionary Institute and was graduated three years later. In 1883 he entered the Junior Class at Bucknell University and was graduated in 1885 with the A. B. degree. He then taught school for two years at Pottsgrove and at Adamsburg. In May, 1887, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County, and was re-elected in 1890. In 1894 he was elected to the General Assembly and was re-elected in 1896. He served as principal of the Wyoming and Forty Fort Schools (1897-1911). After serving as principal of the Selinsgrove Schools for a year, he became associated with his brother-in-law in business in New York City for four years, and with his brother in the Monroe Milling Company until 1922. He was a teacher in the Selinsgrove High School from 1922 until his retirement in 1930. He held the office of school director for one term of six years (1933-1939). He died in his home in Selinsgrove September 13, 1941.

Francis C. Bowersox (1893-1902)

Francis C. Bowersox was born on a farm in Franklin Township, near Paxtonville November 9, 1867. His parents lived successively in Perry, Columbia, and Cumberland Counties, and finally returned to Snyder County in the spring of 1879. As a boy he worked on the farm, and in the mines and woods. He attended Central Pennsylvania College at New Berlin, from which institution he received the A. M. degree. He taught school in Beaver Township and in the borough of Middleburg, where he served as the principal of schools. He clerked one year in a store and served as the county commissioners' clerk for two and one-half years. In May, 1893, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County, and held the office for three successive terms. At the time of his election to the office, he was the youngest County Superintendent of Schools in Pennsylvania. He served as the Representative from Snyder County in the General Assembly for two successive terms (1902-1906). He was always interested actively in his church, serving at five different times as lay delegate to the General Conference. Since his retirement from public office, he has been engaged in the insurance business. His place of residence is Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

George W. Walborn (1902-1908)

George W. Walborn was born January 3, 1863, in Union Township, Snyder County, near the old aqueduct. His father was drafted in the Civil War in September, 1862. His regiment, stationed at Yorktown, was rushed northward during Lee's invasion into Pennsylvania. On the march he fell sick and died in a Baltimore Hospital four days after the Battle of Gettysburg. Professor Walborn never had the privilege of seeing his father. His only brother, Charles, was a volunteer in the Union Army. He died in Williamsport in 1876.

As a boy Professor Walborn attended Fisher's School located a short distance below Selinsgrove. When he was eight years old, his mother bought a farm in Neitz's Valley where he grew to manhood. He was eager to get an education, and with great sacrifice succeeded in graduating from the Freeburg Academy. In 1881, he began teaching at Reichenbach's School in Washington Township, and taught this school for three successive terms. He had seventy-seven pupils enrolled, and received eighteen dollars per month for a term of four months. After teaching seven terms, he became the assistant teacher in the spring and summer Normal Schools of the Freeburg Academy. In 1888, he was elected assistant principal of the East Sunbury High School, then known as the Purdeytown High School. In 1890, he was graduated from the Bloomsburg State Normal School. In July of that year he was elected principal of the Freeburg Academy, and in the fall of that year, principal of the town schools. He served as principal of the Academy for twelve successive years. When he assumed the principalship, there were forty-eight pupils, and in 1902 there were 138 pupils.

In May, 1902, he was elected county superintendent of schools as the successor to Francis C. Bowersox, and served two terms (1902-1908). Upon retiring from the superintendency, he organized the Shamokin Dam High School, and taught the school for one year. In 1909, he was elected principal of the Freeburg Schools, and continued in that position until he retired in 1927. In 1918, he was a candidate for the State Legislature, but was defeated by Doctor John I. Woodruff with a plurality of twenty-one votes. He lived in retirement in Freeburg for a number of years, and died in 1945.

Thomas A. Stetler (1908-1924)

Thomas A. Stetler was born in Monroe Township September 13, 1873. He received his education in the Bloomsburg State Normal School and in Central Pennsylvania College at New Berlin. He began teaching in the public schools in 1889, and taught for eighteen years. He was in the railway mail service for eighteen months. He held a commission of Justice of the Peace for a number of years. He served as principal of schools of Middleburg for three years (1905-1908). In May, 1908, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County, and was re-elected in 1911, 1914, 1918, 1922, or a total of over sixteen years. No county superintendent of the county, before this time, held the office for so long a time. He died while serving his fifth term, February 27, 1924. His salary was \$2,500 per year. He is buried in the Glendale Cemetery in Middleburg. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. George Becht, on May 14, 1924, appointed Harold W. Follmer, assistant principal of the Selinsgrove Schools, to complete the unexpired term of two years.

Harold W. Follmer (1924-1930)

Harold W. Follmer was born in Yeagertown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania August 9, 1893. He attended the public schools of Pittsburgh and Huntingdon, and completed his secondary school education in the Susquehanna University Academy in 1911. In 1915 he received the Bachelor of Science degree from Susquehanna University. He pursued post-graduate work at Susquehanna, Bucknell, and Pennsylvania State College. He taught two years in the high school of Wilmington, Delaware (1915-1917), and four years in the Selinsgrove High School (1920-1924). He served six years as the superintendent of schools of Snyder County (1924-1930), completing the unexpired term of two years of Superintendent Stetler and one four-year term. It was during his term of office as County Superintendent that the office of assistant county superintendent was created. For ten years he was the super-

vising principal of the Selinsgrove Schools (1937-1946). He served two and one-half years in the army air corps in France during World War I. He was the general superintendent of the William F. Groce Silk Mills for six years. At the present time he is the Vocational Counselor of the State Board of Vocational Education in the Bureau of Rehabilitation.

Ira G. Sanders (1930-1934)

Ira G. Sanders was born July 29, 1878, in Monroe Township, Snyder County, in what is now known as Granger's Hollow (formerly known as Sander's Hollow). He attended the rural schools of his native community. In 1900 he was graduated from the Central State Normal School, now known as the State Teachers' College at Lock Haven. He continued his studies at Susquehanna and Bucknell Universities. He began teaching in rural schools at the age of nineteen, and followed school work for thirty-seven years, eleven years of which were in rural schools. He was engaged in Y. M. C. A. work in the Pittsburgh area for ten years. He was principal of the Shamokin Dam High School (three years); supervising principal of the Selinsgrove schools (three years); principal of the Dalmatia High School (one year); principal of the Beaver Vocational High School, (two years); principal of the Freeburg Schools (two years); and principal of the Tressler's Orphans Home Schools at Loysville (ten years). While serving as the principal of the Beaver Vocational High School, he was elected county superintendent of schools in 1930, and served one term. In 1946-47, he was teacher of mathematics in the Selinsgrove Schools. He retired at the close of the school term.

Frank S. Attinger (1934-)

Frank S. Attinger was born in the village of Chapman, Chapman Township, Snyder County, March 15, 1895. He attended the public schools of his native township, and then enrolled in the Lebanon Valley Academy at Annville from which he was graduated. He entered Lebanon Valley College and completed three years' work by the time of the outbreak of World War I. He enlisted in the United States Army in June, 1917, and served two years with the Susquehanna University Ambulance Unit overseas. At the close of the war, he enrolled at Susquehanna University and was graduated with the B. S. degree in 1922. He did post-graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh and at Pennsylvania State College, receiving the degree of Master in Education from the latter institution in 1934. Superintendent Attinger taught in the elementary schools of Chapman Township for three years, served as the principal of the Sandy Township High School, Clearfield County, for five years, and of the Ellwood City Senior High School for one year. He was the supervising principal of the Selinsgrove Schools for six years. In 1934 he was elected county superintendent of schools of Snyder County, and was re-elected in 1938, 1942, and 1946.

The Assistant County Superintendents of Schools

William W. Brunner (1929-1934)

William W. Brunner (1874-1936) was a native of Paxtonville, and attended the public schools of that place. He was graduated from Central Pennsylvania College, New Berlin, Pa., with the Bachelor's degree. He taught in the public schools of Lycoming, Somerset, Cambria, and Snyder Counties. He served as the assistant county superintendent to Harold W. Follmer and Ira G. Sanders. He was very active

in community activities and in educational circles. He retired from school work in 1934 at the expiration of Superintendent Sander's term of office. Arthur M. Felker of Beavertown became his successor.

Arthur M. Felker (1934-)

Arthur M. Felker was born October 8, 1896, at Mechanicsburg, Ohio. He attended the public schools, first in Butler County, Pa., and later in Snyder County, graduating from the Spring Township High School in 1913. In 1915 he entered the Bloomsburg State Normal School and was graduated from that institution in 1919. He served as principal of the Spring Township High School, the Beavertown High School, and the Shippensville High School, Clarion County, during the period from 1919 to 1923. Subsequent to his graduation from Gettysburg College in 1925, he taught science in the Dayton Vocational High School, Armstrong County, for one year, and was principal of the Middleburg Schools for three years. Since 1934 he has served as the assistant county superintendent of schools. He received the Master of Science degree in Education in 1936 from Pennsylvania State College.

County Teachers' Institute

Teachers' Institutes at first were held at the discretion of the county superintendent. Attendance by the teachers was optional. It was not until 1867 when an Act of the Assembly provided for teachers' institutes to be held annually for a period of five days for the purpose of improving teachers in the science and art of education. The compensation for attending the institute was not to be less than the daily wage for teaching. So far as is known, the first regular teachers' institute in Snyder County was held in Selinsgrove, December, 1858, and continued for four days. Daniel S. Boyer was the county superintendent at the time. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and signed by all the teachers in attendance. As new teachers were added to the county from year to year, they were required to sign the constitution and by-laws. A membership fee of fifty cents was required of all male teachers. Female teachers were excused from payment of fees. This fee was required of teachers as late as 1894, when it was raised to \$1.25, and a little later to two dollars. A stenographic report of the proceedings was supplied each teacher. Prof. John F. Stoddard, Rahway, N. J., was the principal instructor, dealing largely with the teaching of arithmetic. Prof. Stoddard was a noted lecturer and the author of school textbooks on arithmetic and algebra. The teachers took an active part in the institute program. The place of meeting of the institute was first determined by vote of the teachers, but later this power was exercised by the county superintendent. This plan of choosing the place of meeting of

the institute explains why the institute was held at different places from year to year.

The Second Annual Teachers' Institute convened in Boyer's Hall, Freeburg, December, 1859. Fifty-nine teachers were present. The program during the day consisted of discussions of specific topics such as orthography, grammar, penmanship, reading, music, mental arithmetic, and general topics such as "Our School System", and the "Necessity of an Association among Teachers". The discussion leaders were school teachers of the county. The evening entertainments were furnished by local musical organizations and story readers. Fifteen resolutions were adopted by the institute this year. Five of them are included here since they seem to represent or reflect the spirit of the times.

1. We believe the office of the County Superintendent is beneficial to the common school system of our state.

2. That in our County Superintendent, Daniel S. Boyer, we have an energetic, faithful, and efficient officer, from whose labors we are receiving results.

3. That every schoolhouse be provided with at least one hundred square feet of blackboard, and that directors not furnishing the same, are not doing their duty.

4. That every school teacher should be a subscriber of at least one county paper and of the PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL JOURNAL.

5. That the beating of children is a practice that should be done away with in a civilized community.

The Third Annual Session was held in Adamsburg, December, 1860. Thirty teachers were in attendance. At this institute a committee on errors was appointed whose duty was to report at the close of the sessions the number and nature of grammatical errors made by the speakers. This plan was followed for the purpose of improving the English. Several interesting resolutions were adopted, among them being:

1. That every school district allow each teacher five days for attending the institute without deducting any part of his salary.
2. That school teachers who do not attend the institute should not be recognized as belonging to the profession, and therefore should not be employed.
3. Every teacher read daily a portion of the Sacred Scriptures and comment on it without expressing any sectarian views.

The institutes for the following six years were held in December of each year successively at Middleburg, Freeburg, Selinsgrove, Middleburg, Freeburg, and Middleburg. The usual program consisted of an address of welcome, the election of honorary members, explanation

of school laws, declamations, choir and band music, demonstrations of reading and of geography chanting classes, addresses on school subjects such as arithmetic, physical geography, political geography, grammar, penmanship, the aims of the teacher, methods of organizing a school, means of self-improvement, the education of youth, school-houses and equipment, ventilation, the need of qualified teachers, longer school term, etc. Among the favorite instructors were Major William Dill, principal of the Freeburg Academy; the Hon. James P. Wickersham, and Hon. E. E. Higbee, State Superintendents of Public Instruction. In 1868, Henry C. Houck, Deputy State Superintendent of Pennsylvania, made his first appearance at the Snyder County Teachers' Institute. Doctor Houck was a great favorite among the teachers.

The resolutions of the institute for 1864 were:

1. Citizens are worthy of the office of school directors only when they replace "the huts that have erroneously been designated by the dignified and honorable title of schoolhouse by buildings fit for the habitation of human beings".
2. Directors who refuse to grant teachers time for attending the teachers' institute manifest little interest and concern for their office.
3. Teachers who absent themselves from the institute without a good excuse are unworthy of the name of teacher, and the county superintendent should refuse to grant them a certificate.

The county institutes may be regarded as the time-keepers of educational progress. The annual proceedings provide abundant evidence for such a statement. As early as 1867 a committee was appointed to recommend a series of uniform textbooks for use in the schools of the entire county. At the institute in 1870 topics like "How to Teach Good Manners", "How to Advance Dull Pupils", the "Evils of Tardiness", "School Duties", "Bad Habits", and "How to Secure the Cooperation of the Parents" were the subjects for discussion, in addition topics concerning how to teach the common branches. In 1871 the county superintendent appointed a committee to report the Institute Proceedings to the various county papers. This practice was followed until the time of World War I. when the war news crowded out the institute news. Since 1872, with one or two exceptions, the institutes have been held in the court house in Middleburg. At the institutes in 1874 the recommendation was made that the school directors of the several school districts should accompany the county superintendent in his visits to the schools. In 1875 the plan of setting apart one day during Institute

Week as "School Directors' Day" was started. In 1876 County Superintendent Noetling urged the teachers to hold school exercises on Friday afternoons and occasionally in the evenings to provide an opportunity for the parents to observe exhibits of art and penmanship of the pupils. It then became the practice at the annual institute to give honorable mention for the best school exhibits for the year. In 1889, County Superintendent Charles W. Herman inaugurated the system of holding joint district institutes by uniting a number of school districts contiguous to one another. These joint district institutes were continued until 1918 when the war and the influenza epidemic made it necessary for them for the most part to be discontinued.

In 1900 action was taken by the institute to erect a suitable memorial for Professor Daniel S. Boyer from funds contributed by the school children, teachers, and friends of education in the county. In the same year the Philadelphia Commercial Museum made a gift of a collection of raw products and of manufactured articles for instructional use in the schools of the county. The teachers also put themselves on record as favoring the teaching of agriculture and nature study in the schools. They also made an appeal for more adequate salaries. In 1901 the teachers adopted a professional reading course and Nathan C. Schaeffer's "Thinking and Learning to Think" was made required reading for that year. In the same year civil government and algebra were added to the school curriculum. The question of changing the place of meeting of the institute was again brought to the foreground. In the contest, Middleburg won by a decisive majority, and there is no record that the question was ever raised again since that time. It was also during this year that the teachers' minimum salary was fixed at thirty-five dollars per month regardless of the type of certification. In 1907 a teachers' salary law provided forty dollars per month for provisional certificate holders, and fifty dollars per month for professional and permanent certificate holders. In 1904 the teachers adopted the Illinois Course of Study upon the recommendation of the County Superintendent, George W. Walborn. In 1907 the teachers' institute recommended that the \$1,250 surcharged the county commissioners according to the county audit, be paid by the county treasurer to the Snyder County Soldiers' and Sailors' Association

for the completion of that memorial. Beginning with 1911, teachers were paid four dollars per day for attending the teachers' institute. In 1919 the Woodruff Salary Law was passed which gave the teachers new encouragement for adequate salaries in the near future. In 1925 the institute week was changed from December to September so as to have the institute before the opening of the school term. The program of the institute was also for the first time broken into sectional meetings. During the depression years, the Snyder County Branch of the Pennsylvania State Educational Association was organized. In 1938 the State Legislature passed an act providing for a two-day institute with four dollars a day pay for attending it.

Many changes have taken place in the program of the teachers' institutes since their beginning in the county in 1858. The institutes from their very inception made steady progress by having programs that kept abreast of the times. The institutes were invariably looked upon as great social occasions as well as great educational events. The teachers remained at the place of meeting for the entire week. The instructors were of a high-class and were recognized educational leaders. The evening programs were varied and were usually of an entertaining nature. At first the program was furnished by local talent and by the teachers themselves in attendance. Later the evening programs assumed the cha-tauqua type of entertainment, and lectures were given by imported talent. In the beginning teachers attended the institutes without pay and were even required to pay their own expenses such as room, board, and the extra fees to meet the expenses of the institute. Later on, the teachers were paid their daily wage, and the pupils were given a holiday. In other words, the teachers taught the full term of school and their attendance at institute was extra time with regular pay. The institute has lost much of its former educational and social values because of the time element and the fact that teachers no longer stay at the county-seat during the total time of the institute. For that reason and because of the inroads of the movies and radios, evening entertainments as a part of the institute program would no longer be found practical. Among the instructors since 1900 may be mentioned Theodore B. Noss, principal of the Southwestern State Normal School; Lee Francis Lybarger, attorney from

Philadelphia; Dr. John I. Woodruff, Dr. George F. Dunkelberger, and Dr. George E. Fisher, professors at Susquehanna University; Dr. O. T. Corson, State Superintendent of Instruction of Ohio; Dr. Reed B. Teitrick, Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Pennsylvania; Dr. Lee Driver of the Rural School Department of Pennsylvania; President Charles C. Ellis of Juniata College; Charles H. Gordonier of the Millersville State Normal School; Nathan C. Schaeffer, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Pennsylvania; Dr. J. George Becht, Deputy State Superintendent of Pennsylvania; and L. E. McGinnis, Superintendent of Schools of Steelton.

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CHAPTER 26

Academy, Seminary, and Musical College

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul.

Joseph Addison.

The Freeburg Academy

The erection of an academy in a small rural community, almost a century ago, in the face of great opposition to education beyond reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling, proved to be a tremendous undertaking. It was no simple task to raise the funds necessary to build the contemplated three-story structure. While there were financially able persons living in the Freeburg Valley, some of them were not disposed to make any contribution toward the undertaking. To them higher education was not only needless, but even harmful except to a favored few who became lawyers, doctors, and ministers. They believed that the vast majority of people had no need for education on the secondary school level and beyond. It was thought people needed to learn to earn a living by manual labor instead of by education.

The Academy is Founded

The first meeting of the Freeburg citizens interested in higher education to consider the advisability of establishing an academy for both sexes was held in the old brick schoolhouse, then located where the present Lutheran and Reformed Church now stands, on Thursday afternoon, September 16, 1852. An organization was effected consisting of John Kantz, presiding officer; Daniel P. Hilbish and Emmanuel Houtz, vice-presidents; John Hilbish, secretary; Rev. C. G. Erlenmeyer, George C. Moyer and Henry Motz, trustees. In the face of great difficulty, it was decided to build an academy in Freeburg to prepare teachers for the common schools as well as to promote the cause of higher education generally.

At a meeting November 22, 1852, Frederick C. Moyer, Daniel P. Hilbish, Peter P. Mertz, and Isaac D. Boyer were chosen as a building committee with Francis A. Boyer as the treasurer, "to locate, establish, and erect the Freeburg Academy" just as soon as it became certain that the necessary funds could be raised. A permanent organization of the stockholders was effected January 14, 1853. These officers were Francis A. Boyer, president; Dr. Henry C.

Houtz, secretary; George Hilbish, treasurer; and the Rev. C. G. Erlenmeyer, George C. Moyer, and Henry Motz, trustees. The institution was incorporated by the Court of Common Pleas of Snyder County in May, 1858, as the "Freeburg Academy of the Lutheran and German Reformed Denominations" for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the studies of the higher branches of education. It becomes a very difficult task to single out particular individuals in the campaign movement for the academy as having wielded outstanding influence. The building of the Freeburg Academy was a community enterprise in which many citizens worked wholeheartedly and co-operatively together for its successful consummation. Calvin F. Moyer, however, felt that the Rev. C. G. Erlenmeyer proved to be the principal moving spirit of the whole enterprise. He also thought that George C. Moyer, one of the trustees of the original academy and a member of the building committee of the second academy, did an outstanding piece of work. He paid him the following tribute:

He blessed every effort in the line of improved convenience, comfort, and equipment in our school with his favor and support. He felt a child was better unborn than untaught. A large part of the record of his life holds a conspicuous place in the Freeburg Academy.

It soon became evident that the necessary funds could be raised and the preparations to begin the building operations were undertaken. The location chosen for the academy was a rising piece of land due north of the town, situated on the south-east corner of Academy and South Streets. The lumber and brick were hauled by sleds during the cold, snowy winter, and were placed on piles stretching from the academy grounds south to the old cemetery. Ground was broken and the foundation walls were completed in ample time to lay the cornerstone Sunday, May 15, 1853. This day proved to be an ideal spring day, and the people, practically from every nook and corner of the county, came to attend the exercises. The orator of the occasion was the Hon. Joseph Casey of New Berlin. The records state that he made an eloquent address emphasizing the importance of erecting an institution of learning in the community in which young people might obtain an education beyond that afforded them in the district schools. A well-trained orchestra under the direction of Prof. John Eckert fur-

nished the music. So rapidly did the building proceed that the structure was completed before Christmas, and the dedicatory exercises were held December 26, 1853. These services were in charge of the local clergy, and the addresses were given by imported speakers.

The trustees were immediately instructed to secure Professor Jacob S. Whitman of Berrysburg as the principal. He accepted the position, and the fall term of the Freeburg Academy opened October 10, 1853. While the achievements thus far were often beset with great difficulties, even greater difficulties appeared in the way in the almost immediate future. At first, all the instruction had to be given in the basement because the interior woodwork of the second story was not completed until January, 1854. This situation definitely handicapped the progress of the school. Mr. Whitman served as the principal for two years, from October, 1853, to October, 1855. During his administration, the new academy building was burned to the ground in the early afternoon of October 13, 1855.

Academy Destroyed by Fire and Re-Built

This great catastrophe befell the academy so suddenly and so unexpectedly that the citizens were momentarily dazed by the great loss. The building caught fire in the attic from some unknown cause, and was totally destroyed. A bucket brigade, made up largely of women, supplied the water from a nearby stream until there was no longer any hope of saving the building. It is said that many of the men of the town and of the surrounding country were at the county-seat at the time attending a celebration in commemoration of the formation of the county that year, and hence there was a scarcity of helpers. Otherwise the academy building might have been saved. In addition to the building, the loss included the large and valuable library of the Philomathean Literary Society, and a large bell cast at Meneely Foundry, West Troy, New York.

No doubt the stockholders were greatly disappointed by this sudden catastrophe coming upon them so soon, but they were by no means so discouraged as to abandon the idea of re-building. There seemed to be no prolonged hesitancy whatever to proceed in the re-building of the academy. That decision was reached at a meeting two days after the fire. Francis A. Boyer, George Hilbish,

and George C. Moyer were elected as the building committee. The materials that had been saved from the old structure, and the insurance money of \$4,000 furnished a part of the materials and funds to erect the second building on the same site. The new building was dedicated Easter Monday, April 13, 1856.

Description of the Academy Building

It is in order to give a brief description of the building. It was a plain, three-story, brick structure, thirty-five by fifty-eight feet in size, surmounted by a cupola in which was a "sweet-toned bell". The first floor contained a school-room, a dining room, kitchen, and cellar; the second floor contained the main school room and a two-room dwelling apartment; the third floor had eleven living rooms, two of which were for family use, and the others served as a student dormitory.

Organization and Administration of the School

The academic year was divided into two sessions of twenty-two weeks each or four quarters of eleven weeks each. The Spring Term usually commenced in the beginning of January and ended about the middle of March. This term was followed by a vacation of two weeks. In addition to the regular academic year, a teacher normal school was conducted annually in the academy during the spring and summer terms, and this proved very successful during the years.

The year 1870-71 may be considered representative of the prosperous days of the academy. In that year Daniel S. Boyer was the principal; William P. Moyer, the teacher of mathematics and the natural sciences; F. Dawson, the teacher of the languages and book-keeping; Miss M. A. Houtz, the teacher of instrumental music; and William Moyer, the teacher of vocal music and of practical surveying.

The expenses of a student for the year 1870-71 become interesting when compared with the school expenses of the present day. The boarding, bedding, and tuition per quarter of eleven weeks was forty dollars. The tuition for day students in the Primary Department was three dollars, and for the Academic Department, seven dollars. Piano instruction was eight dollars; vocal music

instruction, one dollar; and the instruction in the Commercial Department, ten dollars. Since the principal of the academy resided in the academy building, students who so desired were privileged to room and board in the academy building. All students rooming in the academy building had to provide themselves with slippers, and had to make their own beds.

The courses of instruction included those usually taught in the Primary, Academic, and Classical Departments. In the Commercial Department were taught single and double entry book-keeping, the drawing of notes, bills, receipts, and orders. Plain and ornamental penmanship were also taught. Reports of each student with respect to recitation and deportment were mailed to parents and guardians. Examinations were given at the end of each session. The discipline is described as "mild, yet firm, and the students required to be obedient and diligent". In cases of rather serious mis-conduct, the mode of discipline employed by the principal was "the use of the rod, a bundle of straps, putting scholars to shame, and even suspension or expulsion". School exhibitions were very common in those days. The Spring Term invariably closed with one exhibition, and a second one was given shortly before Christmas. Students devoted much time in preparing for the event. Friday afternoons were devoted to reading compositions and "speaking pieces".

The books used were Quackenbos and Martindale's HISTORY, Sheppard's CONSTITUTIONAL TEXTBOOK, Wright's ANALYTICAL ORTHOGRAPHY, Smith's SPELLER, Brown's GRAMMAR, Brook's and Stoddard's MENTAL AND WRITTEN ARITHMETIC, Stoddard's and Henkle's ALGEBRA, Gummere's SURVEYING, Steele's PHILOSOPHY, CHEMISTRY, AND ASTRONOMY, Sanders' FIFTH READER, Peterson's FAMILIAR SCIENCE, Pelton's OUTLINE MAPS, Mitchell's and Warren's GEOGRAPHY, the SPENCERIAN KEY TO THE SYSTEM OF PENMANSHIP, Andrew's and Stoddard's GRAMMAR, Spencer's CAESAR, Hadley's GREEK GRAMMAR, Cole's INSTITUTE READER, and Chase and Stuart's LATIN COURSE.

The Principals of the Academy

JACOB S. WHITMAN, A. M., M. D., served as the first principal (1853-55). On June 6, 1854, he was elected the first County Superintendent of Schools of Union County at an annual salary of \$300. He was charged with the supervision of 150 district schools. Upon the completion of his work at the academy in 1855, he took up his residence in New Berlin.

GEORGE F. MCFARLAND of Lewistown, who had served as an assistant to Whitman, was elected the second principal, and he served three years (1855-58). McFarland achieved much in placing the academy on a firm foundation. Two things of his administration deserve special mention. First, with respect to the Teachers' Institutes that were held in the Academy. The first institute was held January 27, 1857, with McFarland as the presiding officer. He had Professor John F. Stoddard, Rahway, New Jersey, the author of Stoddard's Mathematical Series of texts and public lecturer, at this institute as his guest. His lectures to the teachers dealt largely with the teaching of arithmetic. Secondly, another very significant feature of his term was the issuing of a school paper edited by two of the students with editorials and articles written by the students in script on foolscap paper. This paper was read to the students each Monday morning at the close of the morning session. Only once did it appear in printed form. This paper continued to function until 1862 when the principal, J. K. Millett, deemed it expedient to have it discontinued on the grounds that its contents began to assume an abusive nature.

REV. C. Z. WEISER, D. D., was chosen principal in 1858. Rev. Weiser was greatly interested in the study of languages and the classics. Great emphasis was placed upon them in his program of studies. The main purpose was to give young people a well-founded preparation for college. Calvin F. Moyer, student and later teacher in the academy, considered Principal Weiser "a ready writer, good thinker, witty as well as eloquent, and admired as a speaker". Rev. C. G. Erlennmeyer was the teacher of languages and the classics for many years.

REV. JOHN K. MILLETT served as the principal in 1860-62. DANIEL S. BOYER was assistant principal for several years, and then was elected principal which position he held from 1862 to 1865 and from 1867 to 1873. During his administration, the Freeburg Academy became a widely-known school. N. D. VAN-DYKE served as principal (1865-67), F. W. REAM was the principal for about a year (1873), when he was succeeded by the assistant principal, WILLIAM H. DILL, in 1873 who continued to serve in that capacity until elected County Superintendent of Schools in 1884. J. K. ELLWOOD served as principal from 1864 to 1885.

ALVIN M. WONDER was the principal from 1885 to 1890 when he became an instructor of mathematics in Central Pennsylvania College, New Berlin, Pa. With the merging of that institution with Albright College in 1902, he became a surveyor engineer in the coal-fields of Indiana and Clearfield counties. Wonder was an experienced road constructor and had under his supervision a large section of highways. For the three years prior to his death, he was the Superintendent of Highways of Clearfield, Jefferson, and Indiana Counties. He died February 2, 1914, in Indiana, Pa., at the age of fifty-eight years. He was buried at Carey, Ohio, his birthplace.

GEORGE W. WALBORN was elected principal of the academy in 1890 and served until 1895. This was shortly after he had been graduated from the Bloomsburg State Normal School. He formulated

a four-year curriculum leading to the degree of B. E. (Bachelor of Elements). The first class that completed the requirements was graduated the following year. Annually, classes were graduated from the academy until the erection of the township high school in 1895, when the local high school definitely replaced the academy as a secondary school in the community. Professor Walborn then became the principal of the local public high school, and during the spring and summer months, he taught the Normal School for Teachers, held in the academy building. Walborn served in this capacity until 1902 when he was elected County Superintendent of Schools. From 1902-03, this position was held by Charles I. Boyer; from 1903-04, by E. M. Morgan; and from 1904-07, by George F. Dunkelberger.

An Appraisal of the Academy

The years of prosperity of the Freeburg Academy ranged from 1855 to 1895, or a period of forty years. During this time the academy was an outstanding institution of learning and a leading center of culture in this part of the state. Her principals were well-trained and experienced educators, and for the most part were popular throughout the county. Among the most distinguished of her eleven principals may be named George F. McFarland, Daniel S. Boyer, William H. Dill, and George W. Walborn. Their lives and achievements will always remain intimately associated with the story of the Freeburg Academy. The many students of the "Old Academy" have been scattered far and wide during these many years throughout Pennsylvania and other states, filling positions of trust and prominence, but ever reflecting credit upon their alma mater through their lives and achievements. Truly, the Freeburg Academy proved to be a notable achievement and a great monument to the self-sacrificing spirit and labors of her founders. The academy building is now gone, and her blackened walls are grim reminders of better and happier days.

The greatness of an institution doesn't necessarily depend on the number of students enrolled nor on the size of its teaching staff. Its greatness is more frequently measured by its accomplishments, and by the spirit in which it did its work. The enrollment of the Freeburg Academy was never large as schools go, but was very large for a provincial institution. In 1867-68, there were eighty-six students in the academic department and forty-nine in the preparatory department. In 1870-71, there were 196 students in the academic department and sixty-six students in the preparatory department. Of the 196 students in the academic department, 132 came

from Snyder County, sixty three students came from Juniata, Perry, Dauphin, York, Northumberland, Centre, Schuylkill, and Union Counties, and one came from the State of Ohio.

The Declining Days of the Academy

Prior to 1895, there was no suitable township building for high school purposes.. Since 1863 the school directors of Washington Township rented the main room of the academy building during the winter months for the accommodation of the local high school pupils, and for each pupil, the directors paid tuition. Since 1868 the township school directors paid the principal a monthly salary, and in a way made the academy a part of the public schools of the district. When the township erected a large two-story brick building for both the elementary and high school pupils in 1895, the academy building began to be used only for the Normal School for Teachers in the spring and summer terms. This school was conducted by the principal of the public school building to provide for the teachers of the public schools a more adequate preparation for their work. The County Superintendent of Schools was always a member of the faculty.

The enrollment in the Normal School fluctuated from time to time. For example, from the time William H. Dill became the County Superintendent of Schools, it gradually diminished until 1890 when only forty-seven students were enrolled in the spring and summer sessions. From the time of Walborn's accession to the principalship of the academy, the Normal School began to be more popular, and the enrollment increased each summer until 1902 when Walborn became the County Superintendent of Schools. During that spring term, there were 138 students which was the largest enrollment in any one term in the history of the school. Then followed another marked decrease in the Normal School enrollment until the summer of 1906 when it again reached the one-hundred mark. George F. Dunkelberger was the principal and Thomas E. Hoff, the assistant. Professor Walborn was the teacher of the theory and practice of teaching. The Normal School continued for several terms and then was abandoned. This course seemed inevitable because of the Summer Normals at Susquehanna University, and at Middleburg, conducted by the County Superintendent of Schools.

Reunions of Academy Students and Teachers

The first reunion of academy students and teachers was held June 18, 1891, at Freeburg, at the suggestion of Professor Walborn and Professor Daniel S. Boyer, the assistant. The academy commencement that year consisted of an entertainment by the Junior Class and the graduating exercises, together with the reunion of former students and teachers of the academy on the following day. The reunion was a remarkable success with many former students in attendance. Former teachers of the academy that were present were Daniel S. Boyer, George W. Walborn, Alvin M. Wonder, and Col. A. Frank Selzter. The address of welcome was spoken by Professor Boyer, the Rev. William A. Haas gave the response, and Miles Wetzel gave an appropriate address on the "Literary Character of Father Erlenmeyer". Calvin F. Moyer stated in 1912 that "this reunion was the first and last great gathering of students and teachers of the Freeburg Academy".

Almost fifty years later, on Saturday, August 20, 1938, the second great reunion of the Freeburg Academy students and teachers was held at which time the eighty-two year old academy bell was presented to the Freeburg Borough School District. The committee on arrangements consisted of Professor George W. Walborn, Harry L. Eisenhower, and Arthur C. Brown. The reunion exercises, including the academy bell ceremony, were held in the new auditorium of the high school building on Saturday afternoon, before a large concourse of people. Present on the occasion were the only surviving principal of the academy, Professor George W. Walborn, and the only surviving trustee of the academy, Benjamin F. Arnold, then ninety-seven years old (1841-1938). The audience consisted of former students of the "Old Academy" and their friends, people of Freeburg and vicinity, former residents of Freeburg, and people from many parts of Snyder, Union, and Northumberland Counties, and even more distant places.

Harry L. Eisenhower of Sunbury served as the chairman of the occasion; Rev. George Moyer of Halifax offered the prayer; a chorus of thirty former students of the academy sang, directed by Mrs. Florence Moyer Scott of Philadelphia, with Mrs. Charles Reigle of Freeburg as the accompanist. A history of the academy prepared by Harvey Kantz of Northumberland was read by William F. Brown, former editor of the Freeburg COURIER. Dr.

George F. Dunkelberger of Susquehanna University gave an address on the Academy Movement of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Margaret Gheer of Freeburg sang a solo; and Dr. John I. Woodruff of Selinsgrove and Senator Benjamin Apple of Sunbury reported reminiscences of the old academy days. The principal address was given by the Hon. William L. Dill of New Jersey, a son of the distinguished principal of the academy, one-time candidate for governor of New Jersey, former Vehicle Commissioner of New Jersey, and then Social Security Administrator of the Middle Atlantic District. Mr. Dill was introduced by Henry Stetler of Middleburg. The Academy Bell was presented to the Freeburg Borough School District by Professor



The Freeburg Academy and Bell

George W. Walborn and was accepted by Francis F. Glass, the president of the school board. At this climactic moment, Arthur C. Brown of Selinsgrove, a former student of the academy, sounded the bell as a reminder of former academy days. The exercises closed by singing "Auld Lang Syne", and the second great reunion of academy students and teachers came to a close.

This history of the Freeburg Academy would be incomplete without more information of the famous academy bell. The old bell was cast at Troy, New York, and bears the inscription:

Meneely Foundry, West Troy,
New York, 1856,

Freeburg Academy, Founded 1853;
burned October 13, 1855,
Rebuilt 1856

Its weight is 900 pounds. After the academy building was no longer used for school purposes*, it was rented as a private dwelling. On September 7, 1914, it was sold at public sale by the trustees to Professor William Moyer and Samuel G. Hilbisch for \$750. They in turn sold it March 28, 1918, to F. Q. Hartman, Danville, Pa., who converted the building into a spinning mill. When completed and in operation, the mill became the property of W. W. Wirgman of Selinsgrove. Wirgman began operating the spinning mill December 19, 1918, employing about twenty people. The mill proved to be the principal industry of the town, operating day and night. Early Tuesday morning, about two o'clock, May 16, 1920, it was totally destroyed by fire. All that remains today of the old academy building are portions of its foundation walls. Its destruction obliterated one of the most cherished landmarks of the town. The cause of the conflagration was not determined.

Hartman, who claimed the possession of the old academy bell, had it removed from the cupola April 24, 1919, and taken to New Berlin to be used to signal the time for the beginning of the day's work. Later he brought the bell to Millheim to be used for the same purpose in a silk mill at that place. For some time the bell appeared to have been completely lost, but through the activities of Arthur C. Brown, Selinsgrove, a former student of the Academy and a former resident of Freeburg, the famous bell was finally retrieved, its return to Freeburg was made possible, and its placement in the belfry of the high school building

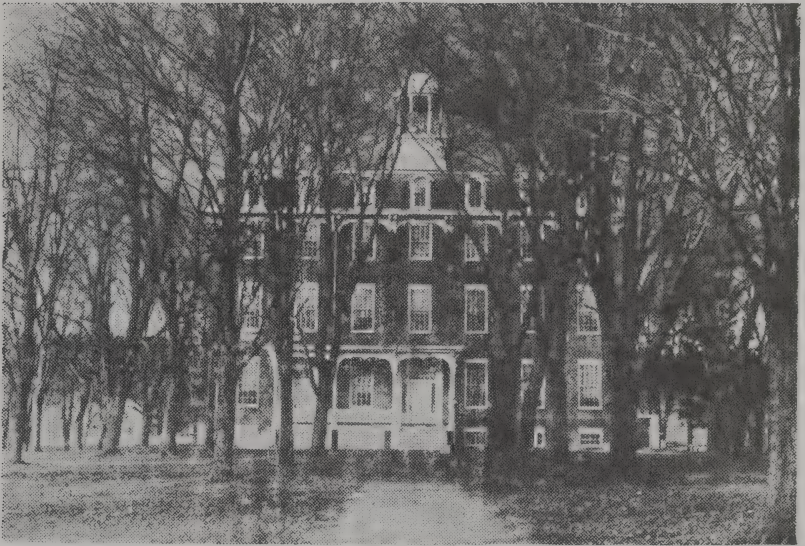


*See files of the Freeburg Weekly Courier for September, 1912, February, 1914, and May, 1920.

was accomplished. There it hangs today, calling the children of another generation to their studies in the hope that they will grow up to become as good and useful citizens as were their forefathers. The bell is a much-prized relic, and perhaps the only one of real significance of the famous Freeburg Academy.

The New Berlin Union Seminary and Central Pennsylvania College

Very early in the history of the Evangelical Church there was manifested a felt need for a higher institution of learning for the church. As the church grew in numbers and influence, this need became increasingly more



The New Berlin Union Seminary and Central Pennsylvania College

evident. In fact, it soon developed into a growing conviction. It was then believed that the only way to guarantee the continued growth and influence of the church was through an educated ministry and laity. Such a conviction found expression at a meeting of the General Conference of the Church in 1843 through the appointment of a committee to formulate a declaration of policy along this line. The opinion prevailed that "preachers and teachers should not be ignorant". Seven years later, at the Annual Conference of the Church in session at New Columbia, a motion was made to establish an educational

institution. Nothing appears to have been done during the following four years, but at least a beginning was made that in due time bore fruit.

Union Seminary Founded

As a result, the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America, formerly the West Pennsylvania Conference, at its session in York, Pennsylvania, March, 1854, appointed a committee to prepare the necessary plans for the founding of the institution. This committee consisted of Reverend W. W. Orwig, Chairman, Reverend J. M. Young, and the Reverend C. F. Deininger. The plans of the committee to establish this educational institution were adopted by the Conference at Baltimore, Maryland, in March of the following year. During that year, the East Pennsylvania Conference joined the movement and was represented on the Board of Trustees with an equal number of trustees as was the West Pennsylvania Conference, until the year 1863. The proposed school was to be known as the "Union Seminary of the West Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association". It was to be located in New Berlin, Union County, Pennsylvania. New Berlin was then a small town, located on the border of Union and Snyder Counties, about five miles from the Reading Railroad Station at Winfield.

The necessary steps were immediately taken to raise adequate funds for the purchase of a site and to erect a building. It was agreed that just as soon as \$15,000 would be subscribed, building operations would be begun. The Reverend W. W. Orwig and Mr. Simon Wolf were appointed as a committee to collect the funds, and a board of trustees was elected, consisting of four ministers and three laymen to control this proposed institution of learning. The four ministers were the Reverend W. W. Orwig, Reverend James Dunlap, Reverend Jacob Boas, and the Reverend Lewis May; the three laymen were Henry High, Henry D. Maize, and Martin Dreisbach. In due time the money was raised, and six acres of land in the northern part of the town were purchased, and near its center a substantial three and one-half story brick building, seventy-five feet by forty-eight feet, with brownstone trimmings, was erected at a cost of \$13,042.60. Since the building stood on a rising piece of ground and was surmounted by a bell-tower, it could be seen for miles around. The first two floors were occupied as class-rooms, and the third and fourth floors as dormitories. Living quarters were provided for approximately forty men. The students' rooms were heated by individual stoves, very much

like the bucket-a-day type of the present day. The students were required to carry their buckets of coal from the large coal bin on the campus up three flights of stairs to their dormitory rooms. From that ground level, they also had to pump their water into pitchers which they toted likewise to their living quarters for drinking and washing purposes. Many of the students did most of their own laundry. This one building provided a chapel, classrooms, a museum, laboratory, and halls for the literary societies, as well as quarters for the rooming and boarding of the students. The institution was chartered by the Court of Common Pleas of Union County in 1855.

Faculty and Student Body

Union Seminary opened its doors in January, 1856, with an enrollment of two hundred students. The first faculty was composed of eight members. Reverend W. W. Orwig was the principal and instructor of moral science and of the German Language; Reverend Francis Hendricks, A. M., was the instructor of mathematics; Jacob S. Whitman, A. M., M. D., was the instructor of the ancient languages and literature; Francis C. Hoffman, A. B., was the instructor of the English Language and bookkeeping; George B. Dechant was the instructor of vocal music; Amanda M. Evans served as the preceptress and instructor of instrumental music; and Hester A. Stoner was the teacher of the Primary Department.

Union Seminary began as a co-educational institution and continued as such until its merger with Albright College, Myerstown, Pennsylvania, in 1902. The history of the institution quite naturally divides itself into three successive periods. The first period extends from its beginning in 1855 to 1863; the second period extends from 1865 to 1880; and the third period extends from 1880 to 1902. The curriculum at first covered only three years of study and prepared students for the senior year in college. In June, 1859, the first class of five members was graduated. The school must have been very successful from its beginning since the catalogues for 1857 and 1858 contain the names of 242 students and 264 students respectively.

Decrease in the Enrollment

In the school year 1859 and 1860 the enrollment was 241 students. This was a small decrease over the preceding years. The enrollment continued to decrease very rapidly until 1863 when the seminary was compelled to close its doors. There are at least two main reasons for this decline in enrollment. First, those persons who had contributed money originally toward the purchase of land

and the erection of the building had been given certificates of scholarships in return. These certificates were accepted by the Seminary in payment of tuition, and this naturally encouraged the enrollment from the very beginning. It must be kept in mind, however, that the money originally subscribed for which these scholarship certificates had been given had already been used for the payment of the grounds and building, and none of it was left for current expenses. The result was that the school became dependent upon tuition alone for its maintenance, and this source of income had materially dwindled because of the large numbers of scholarship certificates that were being turned in from year to year. It becomes evident that this provided a very keen financial situation. These certificates furnished no cash income for the seminary with which to pay salaries, current expenses, and the balance on the debt, and the money coming in from cash-tuition-paying students was not adequate for the demands. When a school is no longer able to meet its current expenses, then a financial crisis becomes the inevitable. This is just exactly what happened in the case of the Union Seminary in 1863.

Probably the major cause of the decline in the enrollment was the Civil War. The records indicate that Union Seminary furnished many students for the Northern Army at this time. The war diverted the attention of the people away from the school, particularly at the time when the very state in which the seminary was located was invaded by the victorious Southern Army. The citizens evidently considered it their duty to expend their time, energy, and money to conserve the Union; consequently, it became the inevitable that the Seminary should suffer seriously both in enrollment and in financial support. So serious did the situation become by the close of the school year of 1863, that it was deemed expedient to suspend all school activities until the close of the war. The doors of Union Seminary were thenceforth closed during the period from 1863 to 1865.

Union Seminary in Financial Difficulty

By the closing of its doors, the school unfortunately "forfeited its charter and lost the confidence of its creditors", and the building and grounds passed into the hands of the sheriff. At this critical juncture, a number of self-denying men, mostly ministers of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, under the leadership of the Reverend W. E. Detwiler and Reverend M. J. Carothers, assumed the financial responsibility through the personal solicitation of funds, through the sale of shares at twenty-five dollars

each, and by the issuing of certificates of stock as well as by their own personal gifts. They finally met the claims of the creditors and succeeded in giving the institution a new lease of life. To achieve this purpose, these men organized themselves into what was then known as the "Educational Society of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America". This society assumed the control of the Seminary and placed its executive business in the hands of a board of trustees of nine members, elected from the membership of the society. This educational society controlled the policy of the Seminary until 1885 when the control passed into the hands of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. In 1890-91, the Pittsburgh Conference joined the Central Pennsylvania Conference in the ownership and the control of the institution.

Union Seminary Reopens in 1865

Union Seminary reopened during the summer of 1865. From this time on until 1869, the enrollment ranged from seventy-five to one hundred students. The catalogue for 1872-73 lists 107 students; the catalogue for 1875-76, 111 students; and for 1879-80, 71 students. These students were classified in the catalogue under the headings of "gentlemen" and "ladies" instead of by classes or by fields of instruction. The "gentlemen" constituted about four-fifths of the total enrollment, and the "ladies", only about one-fifth. This disparity between the two sexes prevailed until the latter years of the institution when the enrollment was approximately equally divided between the sexes. Since the institution had lost its charter during the period of 1863-65, the school was operated on the plan of an academy with no regular curriculum of instruction from this time until its re-organization and re-incorporation in 1880. The catalogue for 1877-78 states as the objective of the school the following:

The courses of instruction embrace such studies as are usually taught in the seminaries and academies of the higher grade, and are adapted to prepare students for active business, teaching, the study of the professions, or for the Freshman Class in college. The Primary Department connected with the institution has for its objective the preparation of its members for the Seminary Course.

Attempts to Found Another College

During the year of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, the educational enthusiasts of the Church resolved to found a larger institution of higher learning to be known as Centennial College. The East Pennsylvania Conference, the Central Pennsylvania Con-

ference, and the Pittsburgh Conference supported the movement and steps were taken to raise the necessary funds for this purpose, but the project failed through a lack of financial support. This failure dampened the ardor of the friends of higher education in the Church, and Union Seminary for the time being became almost a forgotten institution. So pronounced became this indifference that despite the efforts of the faculty and a few loyal friends, the school began to decline. The attendance during the winter of 1878-79 was only eighteen students, among whom the Reverend J. D. Shortess, D.D., Lemoyne, Pennsylvania, is probably the only surviving member. No catalogue was issued during the year.

The Principals of Union Seminary

It becomes worthwhile to enumerate at this time all the principals of the Seminary from its beginning up to 1879. During these twenty-one years that the school was open, eight principals presided over the school. These principals were: Reverend W. W. Orwig (1856-1859), Reverend Francis Hendricks (1859-1860), August S. Sassaman (1860-1862), Reverend John H. Leas (1862-1863), Francis C. Hoffman (1865-1869), Professor D. Denlinger (1869-1874), Reverend Francis M. Baker (1874-1879), and Reverend J. W. Bentz (1879, March to December.) In December, 1879, Aaron Ezra Gobble, a young graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, succeeded to the principalship of the Seminary. He brought to the school the enthusiasm of youth, great scholarship, and excellent administrative leadership. Without question Principal Gobble was by far the most distinguished of all the principals. He and the institution are one and inseparable. The history of the one is also the history of the other for the following twenty-three years until the school merged with Albright College in 1902. Because of his great influence and prominence over so many years, a biographical sketch follows, covering his training, sterling qualities, and his personal worth.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Principal Gobble

Aaron Ezra Gobble was born on a farm near Millheim, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1856. He came from German parentage, being the oldest of a family of four children. He attended the public schools of the community until he was fifteen years old, and then entered the Spring Mills Academy, formerly known as the Penn Hall Academy, where he prepared himself for teaching school and for college. He taught school in Centre County for four winters; during the summer months he continued his studies at the Academy. He entered Franklin and Marshall College in 1876 in the Sophomore Class and was graduated at the head of his class in 1879 with the A. B. degree. In the same year he was licensed to preach by the East Pennsylvania Conference of the Evan-

gical Association. In 1881 he was received into the Central Pennsylvania Conference and was ordained a deacon in 1882 and an elder in 1885. Upon graduation from college he was appointed instructor of mathematics in Union Seminary. He entered upon his duties in August, and continued in this position for five months when he was appointed to the principalship upon the resignation of Principal Bentz. He received the A. M. degree from his Alma Mater in 1882. In 1890 Lebanon Valley College conferred upon him the D. D. degree. He died at Myerstown, Lebanon County, April 17, 1929, at the age of seventy-three years. He was buried at New Berlin within view of the building where he had labored for so many years ably and faithfully in the dual capacity of teacher and administrator.

Union Seminary Reorganized

In the beginning of Gobble's administration, the curriculum was enlarged, a commercial course was introduced, and as a result the attendance was greatly increased. In due time the program of studies embraced six more or less distinct curricula: Classical, Scientific, Theological, Commercial, Music, and the Elementary. The Elementary Curriculum was designed for such students who for one reason or another were unable to complete the regular four years' work leading to the baccalaureate degrees. Upon the completion of the Elementary Curriculum, the students were graduated with the Bachelor of Elements degree. The Normal Class was designed to prepare students for teaching.

Union Seminary Becomes Central Pennsylvania College

In 1883 a new charter was secured and plans were put into operation for a regular four-year institution on the collegiate level with power to grant degrees. At a meeting of the board of trustees, March, 1887, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the name "Union Seminary" be changed to "Central Pennsylvania College" and a committee of three members was appointed to effect the necessary legal transactions. Principal Gobble was called to the presidency of the new collegiate institution. He served as its first and only president until it merged with Albright College in 1902. From this time on, the institution was known as Central Pennsylvania College, and was under the immediate supervision of the Central Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh Conferences. It is interesting to note that in 1888 the needs of the college were listed as: (1) contribution to the building fund to make possible additional buildings, (2) increased endowment, (3) the hearty co-operation of all the ministers and laymen of the conferences. Three reasons were set forth for patronizing the college as: (1) beautiful and healthful location, (2) thorough and practical institution, (3) a Christian Institution.

School Year and Tuition

The school year in the Seminary consisted of forty weeks, divided into four terms of eight, ten, twelve, and ten weeks, respectively. Later on, the school year was divided into three terms of sixteen, twelve, and twelve weeks, respectively.

The tuition and expense items for 1880-81 were:

English Branches	\$24.00
Latin, Greek, German	6.00
French	5.00
Instrumental Music	21.00
Vocal Music	3.00
Commercial Branches	7.50
General Repairs and Care of Public Rooms	2.00
Room rent for term	2.00
Heat	.50
Boarding per week	1.75

When the school was on the college level, the expense items for the year 1897-98 were:

Classical and Scientific Curriculum	\$48.00
Elementary Curriculum	40.00
Preparatory Work (fees according to subjects)	
Room Rent	8.00
Laboratory Fees	2.00
Contingent Fees (heat and repairs)	4.00
Reading Room	.45
Boarding with Private Families per week but rooming at the college	1.75

Religious and Literary Activities Emphasized

A strong religious atmosphere pervaded the life of the school. Much emphasis was placed upon Bible Study. Worship services were conducted daily in the chapel both morning and evening, and the students were required to attend. The students were also required to attend public worship twice each Sunday.

There were two flourishing literary societies, the Neocosmian and the Excelsior. These societies were rival organizations, and occupied neatly-kept rooms on the third floor of the building. Each society had a library of its own of approximately 1,000 volumes. Their programs were conducted weekly, and consisted of extemporaneous speaking, scientific talks, debates, orations, and musical selections. The literary society contests and special programs during the school year, especially during Commencement Week, always were regarded as special fea-

tures, and were well attended by the student body and by the general public.

Faculty and Student Body

Among the best-known faculty members during the third period of the school (1880-1902), commonly referred to as President Gobble's Administration, may be mentioned Alvin M. Wonder, Harry N. Conser, William P. Winter, J. A. Bartholomew, Harry Ammon Keiss, Charles A. Derr, George Hayes Dosch, Ida R. Bowen, and Maude V. Bowen. The enrollment was usually less than 100 students. For example, in the year 1880-1881, there were eighty-three students from seventeen counties in Pennsylvania and one student from the State of Delaware; in 1885-1886, there were 120 students from twenty-two counties of Pennsylvania, and one student each from New York and Ohio; in 1890-1891, there were eighty-two students from seventeen counties and one student from Ohio; in 1895-1896, there were eighty students from nine counties of Pennsylvania, and two students from Maryland; in 1900-1901, there were ninety-six students from fifteen counties and two students from Maryland, and one each from Iowa and Nebraska. While the institution was located in Union County, in some years the adjoining county of Snyder furnished more students than did Union County.

Central Pennsylvania College Merged With Albright College

For some years a strong sentiment had prevailed in the Evangelical Association that her interests in higher educational institutions demanded consolidation. The financial needs of her institutions made such a step advisable. Central Pennsylvania College had a small endowment of less than \$50,000, and there was little hope that under existing conditions it could be very much increased. At the dawn of the century, large endowments were regarded imperative to guarantee progress for any collegiate institution. In 1895 a committee was appointed to work toward a merger. In 1901 the Central Pennsylvania Conference again appointed a committee of three to act with similar committees of the East Pennsylvania Conference and of the Pittsburgh Conference. The final outcome of these deliberations was the merger of Central Pennsylvania College and Albright College at Myerstown in 1902.

Further Attempts to Maintain a Seminary at New Berlin

Following the merger of Central Pennsylvania College and Albright College in 1902, repeated attempts were

made to re-establish Union Seminary as a college preparatory and normal school. Reverend W. D. Marburger conducted such a school (1904-1905); as did Martin W. Witmer and Reverend Edwin A. Nace, (1905-1907) and Herbert W. Firth (1907-1911). Then all attempts to maintain an educational institution were permanently abandoned.

Use of the Seminary Building For Other Purposes

After the merger of the two educational institutions in 1902, the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Association sold the building and grounds in 1903 to Charles Kleckner of Philadelphia for \$1,500. After passing through a succession of different owners, the building and grounds finally became the property of the Borough of New Berlin in 1942. With the abandonment of the school in 1911, the building stood idle for a few years. In 1918 the building was used by Ferdinand Q. Hartman as a silk mill. Following this, the building again stood idle for a period of years. In 1943 the east wall of the building collapsed, and the entire building was condemned as unsafe. After repeated attempts to raze the building by blasting the walls with dynamite, in September, 1944, the building finally collapsed. The debris was cleared away the following year. Few traces even of the site of the building remain anymore. The grounds have been set aside as a public recreation ground.

The Moyer Musical College

It has frequently been stated that an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man. This is particularly true with respect to the "Moyer Musical College and the Pennsylvania Normal School of Music" of Freeburg. Frederick C. Moyer was the founder of this school. In 1871 he erected the Musical College Building and dedicated it as a "normal school of music, well supplied with pianos and organs, for instruction in the science and art of music, both vocal and instrumental". Associated with the college was the choir convention with its choruses of hundreds of voices and soloists. In January, 1873, by the unanimous action of the officers of the Freeburg Academy and citizens, it was agreed that the Moyer Musical College "shall henceforth be in connection with the said Academy and worthy of its attention". From this time on, these two common centers of culture in the same community made Freeburg famous as an educational and musical town throughout Central Pennsylvania. It was frequently stated that it was impossible for anyone to pass through

the town without hearing the sweet strains of vocal and instrumental music. Freeburg and music became so intimately associated that they began to be regarded as synonymous. Almost every town has some characteristic by which it is known. This may be railroads, chocolates, lumber, iron, or automobiles, but Freeburg had an environment distinctly its own. If there ever was a place where "music swells the breeze and rings from all the trees", that place was Freeburg.

A biographical sketch of the founder of the Musical College is in order for the purpose of providing a background for a better understanding of the character of this institution, and also for explaining why Freeburg became such a distinguished musical town. Frederick C. Moyer, the founder, was born near Freeburg in the year 1810. He had a varied career with many business interests and served the general public in manifold ways. At the age of twenty-two he entered the mercantile business in Freeburg, and continued in it for nine years, when his brother George C. Moyer, entered into a partnership relation with him that continued for many years. In 1838 he moved into a house located on the northwest corner of South and Market Streets, where he opened a hotel. He continued that business for thirty-eight years. Mr. Moyer came from a family of musicians, his father having served as chorister (fore-singer) in the local church for twenty years. When he was ten years old he began to receive his first instruction in music from Reverend Isaac Gerhart, the pastor of the local Reformed Congregation. In an autobiographical sketch, Mr. Moyer states that "when I was a boy eight years old, I had to sing in my father's house for the neighbors to spend the evenings". In 1826 he himself became an instructor and conducted classes in various sections of the county. In 1834 he became the leader of the singing of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations which position he held for twenty-seven years, when he retired. He was succeeded by his son, Professor William Moyer, who served until 1882.

Frederick C. Moyer also had a reputation as an agriculturist. He made swamp land fit for cultivation by a system of drainage and by the straightening of creeks. He used lime extensively as a fertilizer. He served as a trustee of the Mifflinburg Academy for three years; was auditor of old Union County and later of Snyder County for a term of three years each; was a director of the Lewisburg Bank; served as postmaster for twelve years under the administrations of Harrison, Taylor, and Lincoln; and was a trustee of the Reformed Church Congregation for

thirty-four years. He had a family of nine children, all of whom were musical. They were Daniel B., John C., William, Philip B., Henry B., Caroline (Mrs. Samuel Hilbish), Lydia (Mrs. Henry Brown), Jane (Mrs. Frederick E. Hilbish), and Sarah (Mrs. J. C. Shaeffer).

As a building for the Musical College, his large two-story frame building on the northwest corner of South and Market Streets was remodeled with a third story added for studios and a concert hall with a seating capacity of six hundred. The entire second story was fitted up for a dormitory for students with bed-rooms, study, and practice rooms. The first floor was used for a store, the office of the WEEKLY COURIER, and a hotel. Many organs and pianos were installed. Expert instructors were employed to take charge of the instrumental department, and his son, Professor William Moyer, was placed at the head of the Vocal Department. The dedication of the college took place on Saturday afternoon, September 1, 1871. Reverend William A. Haas delivered an appropriate address on the occasion. The school year consisted of three terms; the first of eight weeks beginning in April; the second, of six weeks, in July; and the third, of eight weeks, in October. A choir convention of one week's duration was held annually in the month of January. The summer sessions were always well patronized by students from various parts of the state, and the musical conventions never failed to attract a large concourse of people. During the forty years of its operation, many of the sons and daughters of the Susquehanna-Juniata Valleys received from two to three years of study in music in this school. The excellent singing in many rural churches could readily be traced to the benign influences of this school. The school instilled the love of music into the hearts of many people who otherwise would probably never have cared for music at all.

The founder of the school conducted it very successfully until his death in 1891. He was succeeded by his son, Henry B. Moyer, who for the following sixteen years conducted the school equally well. When Henry B. Moyer retired in 1907, the school was taken over by Anna J. Moyer, the daughter of Philip B. Moyer. Miss Moyer conducted the school ably for several terms after which the Freeburg Musical College was permanently abandoned. On Tuesday, November 3, 1908, the musical instruments and furnishings of the college were sold at public sale. After the music school was discontinued, the college building was rented for hotel purposes. Upon the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment, the hotel was closed, and the build-

ing was sold. It then became used successively as a private residence, a restaurant and pool-room, a barber shop and public dance-hall. After being untenanted for about a year, it was totally destroyed by fire on the night of March 29, 1929. The fire was undoubtedly of incendiary origin. The fire started after midnight and destroyed not only the three-story frame musical college building, but also the three-story William Moyer brick residence. The musical building was completely destroyed, and the Moyer residence remained with walls standing, but its entire interior was completely gutted. The loss was estimated at \$30,000.

CHAPTER 27

Missionary Institute, Susquehanna Female College, and Susquehanna University

I call, therefore, a complete and generous education that which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully, and magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, in peace and war.

John Milton

The history of Susquehanna University is the story of unselfish service and great sacrifice. It is imperative that her history be told for the sake of those who were educated there, and for the sake of others who may profit from a full appraisal of her cultural and practical values. People tend to be more appreciative of their education and religious institutions when they are intelligently informed of the devotion, the loyalty, and the labors that made them possible. Then they can refer to their institutions with a certain richness of meaning and filial devotion that otherwise would be impossible. Susquehanna University is the lengthened shadow of many public-spirited, noble-hearted, and generously-minded citizens who always leave the world better than they found it. The following pages record the more significant events and incidents connected with her origin, growth, and development. Since Susquehanna University is the outgrowth of two educational institutions known as the Susquehanna Female College and Missionary Institute, her history must of necessity begin with these two institutions.

The Founder of Missionary Institute

Doctor Benjamin Kurtz is generally recognized as the founder of Missionary Institute in the year 1858. The school was established in those troublous years just prior to the opening of the great Civil War. Who was Benjamin Kurtz, and what spirit prompted him to undertake such a venture at that time? In order to answer this question, certain facts of his life and character must be known.

Benjamin Kurtz was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, February 28, 1795. He was the grandson of the Rev. John Nicholas Kurtz (1720-1794) who came to America in 1745 as an associate of Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (1711-1787), the founder of the German Lutheran Church in America. Rev. John Nicholas Kurtz was the first Lutheran minister ordained in this country at the first Synodical Meeting in 1748. His parents were Benjamin (1762-1839) and Elizabeth Kurtz (1769-1852), in-

dustrious and pious people, greatly concerned about the Christian nurture of their eight children, of whom Benjamin was the fourth child.

Benjamin Kurtz was a pupil in the Harrisburg Academy (founded in 1786). At an early age he became a tutor in Latin, Greek, and the German languages. He never enjoyed the advantages of a complete college education. It was the father's wish to make a lawyer out of the son, but the son preferred to become a minister of the Gospel. Benjamin told his father that he was willing to become a shoemaker, a tailor, or almost anything else, but he desired most to be a minister of the Gospel. The father yielded on the condition that he would become a German preacher. On the other hand, the mother wanted him to become an English preacher. Benjamin reconciled the two wishes by declaring that he would become a preacher in both languages. At the age of eighteen, he began the study of theology under the tutelage of the Rev. Dr. George Lochman, Lebanon, Pennsylvania. In May, 1815, at the early age of twenty, Benjamin Kurtz was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Synod of Pennsylvania at its meeting in Frederick, Maryland, and immediately became an assistant pastor to his uncle, Rev. J. Daniel Kurtz, D.D., at Baltimore. In a few months he was elected pastor of the Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, Maryland, which pastorate he served until 1831.

Benjamin Kurtz must have been an extraordinary pastor and preacher of his day and age. He was a strong advocate of catechetical instruction, temperance reforms, revival meetings, prayer meetings, Sunday Schools, and worship services in the English language. At first he preached wholly in the German language, but later he preached in the English language. Despite considerable opposition to most of these innovations, he met with unusual success as a preacher and leader. It is said that on a single service preparatory to the Holy Communion, 115 members were received by the rite of confirmation.

Pastoral work in his day must have been arduous and disappointing, if not discouraging. Let those people to-day who believe the world is getting worse take cognizance of Kurtz's description of the state of men's minds and of the social conditions in those early days.

In that day Satan walked abroad almost without let or hindrance. Episcopal ministers attended horse-races and balls; Presbyterian ministers were indeed orthodox, up to the hub but as dead as door-nails, and preached about waiting God's time to be converted; and Lutheran elders and deacons, as well as Reformed, played cards and were managers at dances, got drunk, and were often elected to office just to force them to go to the church and carry the bag

about, and so to get the laugh upon them. These to be sure were all extreme cases, and there were honorable exceptions; but so it was, and it was deemed fanatical to oppose such things, and we were more than once denounced as a sanctimonious hypocrite because we ventured to take exception.

When we proposed holding a prayer meeting, our best friends dissuaded us, and assured us that it would 'break our neck'. When we persisted that it should be held in the church, the sexton was forbidden to open the church, or perform any official duty for us. More than once, we unlocked the church ourselves, rang the bell, lighted the candles, and then addressed the group of five or six, all women but one, and he was the unwilling and yet willing sexton.

While serving his Hagerstown pastorate, Reverend Kurtz was appointed in 1825 by the General Synod to visit Europe for the purpose of soliciting funds and books for the proposed theological seminary at Gettysburg, founded in 1826. He left America in the spring of 1826 for Europe, and returned home in November, 1827. On his European tour, he was received by kings, princes, government officials, and prominent churchmen and church dignitaries. Everywhere he was greeted with great enthusiasm. He preached to thousands the simple truths of the Gospel. His evangelistic sermons were better received than were the rationalistic discourses of the German preachers and teachers. He brought back to America about \$12,000, over and above all expenses of the journey, and about 6,000 books for the library.

Upon his return to America, he resumed his pastoral work at Hagerstown, and continued there until 1831, when he resigned to accept a pastoral call from Chambersburg where he remained two years, and then was compelled to retire from the active ministry because of ill health. Unable to preach because of his health and frequent hemorrhages of the lungs, he sought a less strenuous life. His original intentions were to retire temporarily to a farm in the hope of speedily regaining his health, but it appears that he never followed out this plan. Because of his financial ability and his keen business sense, a bank offered him a position, but this he declined on the grounds that such a secular business was inconsistent with his chosen work of the Christian ministry. He wanted to continue religious work as well as regain his health.

In August, 1833, he became the editor of the LUTHERAN OBSERVER which was published in Baltimore, and he continued in that capacity for almost thirty years (1833-1862). During this period, the OBSERVER became the leading literary paper of the Lutheran Church. When he became the editor, it was a semi-monthly paper with

700 subscribers; when he retired as editor, it was a weekly with more than 8,000 subscribers. His great work as an editor compared very favorably with his accomplishments as a preacher and pastor. His keen insight and understanding of the function and program of the church were repeatedly portrayed in his trenchant editorials. His great ability and learning were universally recognized by his constituency. The demands made upon his time and energy were heavy. In 1834, he was elected professor of history and German Literature in Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg) and to a professorship in the Gettysburg Theological Seminary, but he declined both. He evidently thought that he would be of greater usefulness to the Lutheran Church as an editor than as a professor.

The passion of his great soul was for the church to have many more and better-prepared ministers of the Gospel. In an editorial in the LUTHERAN OBSERVER April 10, 1835, he expressed his views as follows on this point:

In surveying the present condition of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, we are forcibly and painfully struck with the vast disparity existing in relation to the aggregate of her ministers and her congregations. We number, it is said, some eight or nine hundred churches or preaching places, and not more than about 230 preachers! And this immense disproportion is rather augmenting than diminishing. How shall this augmented number of ministers and students be obtained?

In his editorials during the years 1854, 1855, and 1856, he repeatedly stressed the great need of an institution for the training of ministers. This was an increasing conviction in his life. In the OBSERVER for January 19, 1855, he states:

No Christian denomination in our land is suffering so much for the want of ministers of the Gospel as the Lutheran. We need plainly and moderately educated men as well as profoundly educated men, and there are neighborhoods and churches to which the former are better adapted, and in which they can do more good than the latter. We now have something like 1,000 ministers in the Lutheran Church in our country; and if we had 1,000 more, in less than six months, the Lutheran Church would furnish every one of them with appropriate and extensive preaching places, and in a few years, every one of these places would become a self-sustaining charge, and besides supporting the gospel themselves, would aid in supplying other destitute places at home as well as in foreign fields.

His solution to the problem of a dearth of ministers was two-fold. He felt that intelligent and spiritually-minded laymen with good education should be encouraged to prepare themselves for the Gospel ministry by attend-

ing a theological seminary, or by private instruction in theology under some capable ministers. Should any not be able to finance such preparation, Dr. Kurtz felt they ought to be made beneficiaries of the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States. Provision was to be made later on, when financially able to do so, for these recipients to refund the money advanced to them during their period of preparation so that the money might be used over and over again for the same purpose.

Great as was his work as a preacher and editor, undoubtedly the greatest work of Benjamin Kurtz was the founding of an institution of learning in which his great hopes for a better trained ministry for the church could be realized. This great hope was consummated in 1858, in the founding of Missionary Institute in Selinsgrove. Rev. Kurtz was also prominently identified with the founding of the General Synod of the Lutheran Church and of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary. He was the author of a number of important Lutheran publications. In fact, Doctor Kurtz was definitely identified with practically every great movement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in his day. He was recognized as a great preacher, a profound scholar, a versatile debater, and a Christian gentleman. For more than thirty years, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg). For his great ability and for his outstanding achievements, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him in 1838 by Washington College, Washington, Pennsylvania, and in 1858, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. He died at Baltimore, December 29, 1865, at the age of seventy-one years, and was buried January 1, 1866, from the Second English Lutheran Church, Lombard Street, Baltimore.

The Beginnings of Missionary Institute and of the Susquehanna Female College

The thought that grew and developed in the mind of Benjamin Kurtz to found an institution of learning in which consecrated men, irrespective of age, might prepare themselves to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ finally came to full fruition in May, 1858. The founding of such an institution was the passion of his soul and at last it was happily consummated. It has to be admitted that Kurtz's aggressive theological convictions as well as his progressive views of religious education may have been a great motivating influence in realizing his ideal. At first nobody in particular gave much heed to his plan. The

proposed school was to be merely an auxiliary to the other educational institutions of the church, and by no means a competitor to them. The institution was to supplement the already existing educational facilities for the preparation of additional ministers of the Gospel. Even though Doctor Kurtz may have been completely innocent of all intents and purposes of founding a rival institution to Wittenberg and Gettysburg, there is some ground for believing that Gettysburg was far from enthusiastic over the establishment of another theological school in Central Pennsylvania. This may be inferred from the nature of



Selinsgrove Hall at Susquehanna University

certain correspondence and from the fact that that institution was not represented at the inauguration of the professors of Missionary Institute on November 24, 1858.

The Maryland Synod Takes Action

The proposed plan to found such an institution was long delayed for various reasons. At the meeting of the Maryland Synod at Frederick in October, 1856, Doctor Kurtz presented a report "on the subject of establishing a Missionary Institute for the education of lay people with talent for the Gospel Ministry". He suggested the ap-

pointment of a committee to consider the recommendation. The report was adopted and a committee of ten men of the Maryland Synod was appointed to carry out the plan. The committee was to determine the location of the proposed institute and was to plan for the erection of the necessary buildings.

The first meeting of the committee was held in Baltimore, December 15, 1856, at which time the decision was reached to locate the institution in Baltimore County, Maryland. At the second meeting of the committee, January 6, 1857, the resolution to locate the Institute in Baltimore County was rescinded. It was thought the Lutherans of that area were not sufficiently numerous to give the school adequate local support, and that preference should be given to a community that offered the largest "pecuniary contributions". At a subsequent meeting of the Maryland Synod, the committee selected to found and to establish Missionary Institute was separated from any relationship to the Synod, since the Institute was now to be located in territory outside of its jurisdiction. The machinery to set into operation the program was slow-moving as is evidenced by the delays that tested the patience of the church people to the limit. They were enthusiastic over the project and wanted it completed as speedily as possible. One is compelled to admire the extreme patience and the undaunted courage of Doctor Kurtz in the midst of all the difficulties encountered in the promotion of his enterprise.

The Question of Location of the Institute

The final decision of the committee not to locate Missionary Institute in Baltimore County threw the question of location wide open. In one of the issues of the LUTHERAN OBSERVER at the time, an announcement was made for suggestions relative to the location of the school. The fact was made known that the committee welcomed applications from any community that could qualify. Places in southeastern, central, and western Pennsylvania, in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa expressed an interest but the active candidate towns finally resolved themselves into Loysville, Bloomfield, Newport, and Selinsgrove. These four towns presented their claims to the committee as candidates, setting forth their advantages, buildings, and the amounts of money they would contribute. A person is constrained to believe that these claims and counter-claims must have furnished the committee more confusion than information.

Shortly after the meeting of the committee February 9, 1857, Dr. Kurtz secured the services of the Rev. Henry

Ziegler to assist the Lutheran pastor of Loysville in canvassing Perry County for funds to secure the location of Missionary Institute at that place. The question of the proposed location of the Missionary Institute was frequently the topic of discussion, and Loysville at the time appeared most likely to be the choice. The Central Pennsylvania Synod favored Loysville and expressed the wish to co-operate with Colonel John Tressler in his efforts to have the Institute located there. Let us now take up the claims as presented by the several candidate towns.

LOYSVILLE. The local committee reported that \$8,500 had already been raised, with many people not yet canvassed. The committee pledged itself to raise the subscription to \$10,000 providing Loysville would be selected. Then the Synod was expected to raise \$5,000 within its territorial limits, and with Colonel Tressler's generous gift of \$5,000, the total money contributions would then amount to \$20,000. The claim was set forth that the locality was extremely healthful, that the school could be supplied with excellent running water from a spring, and that the town was located on the route of the contemplated Sherman's Valley and Broad Top Railroad. Letters from the president and the directors of the company were furnished to give assurance that the railroad would be built shortly.

BLOOMFIELD. The application stated that the buildings and grounds of the Bloomfield Academy would be donated for the purpose. This offer covered two frame and brick buildings and four acres of land worth in all \$5,700. The local committee reported that "little effort as yet has been made to raise subscriptions, but it believed considerable money could be raised for the Institute". A local physician would give gratis lectures on physiology, anatomy, and hygiene. It was assured also that the Lutheran Church might be used for worship and for the holding of anniversaries, and that the land adjoining the Academy could be bought at reasonable prices for expansion. It was asserted that the citizens of the community were intelligent, healthy, interested, and willing to co-operate in its promotion. The claimed assets of the borough were three newspapers, four churches, a County Agricultural Fair, a County Teachers' Institute, and the fact that the town was healthful, that it was the county-seat of Perry County, and that it was located but five miles from railroad connections at Newport.

NEWPORT. The local committee claimed that the town had its proportionate share of public-spirited citizens who were keenly interested in securing Missionary

Institute. Samuel Leiby agreed to deed to the trustees of the Institution 120 acres of good farm land in Minnesota if the Institute would be located at Newport. This farm was conveniently located on a railroad, and the land was estimated to be worth five dollars per acre. Robert Brown subscribed \$500 or agreed to deed 160 acres of land in Minnesota, valued at five dollars per acre. It was stated that the farm had running water; the land, generally level, contained a goodly supply of timber, and was situated near the railroad. Jacob Loy wished to give 117 acres of land located within the incorporated limits of the town, valued at \$4,500. The local committee presented the following nine advantages of Newport: (1) healthful location, (2) excellent drinking water, (3) building materials such as timber, brick, and stone, and fuel such as wood and coal, readily obtainable, (4) advantages of the railroad, telegraph, and postal service, (5) morality of the people compared favorably with other localities, (6) four Protestant Churches, (7) quarters available for the housing of the Institute prior to the erection of the necessary buildings, (8) citizens already subscribed \$8,700 pending upon the location of the Institute at Newport, (9) and finally that the town had a printing press and published a newspaper.

SELINSGROVE. On February 13, 1858, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove discussed the advisability of having Missionary Institute established at that place. The council felt that the necessary money could be raised. The question, however, was further discussed at a congregational meeting the following month and active support was given to the movement to secure the Missionary Institute either in Selinsgrove or at least in its immediate vicinity. It was at this congregational meeting that a committee was chosen to canvass Selinsgrove and vicinity for funds. The leaders of the Selinsgrove Church, evidently seeing the value of such an institution in their midst, immediately began to circulate a subscription list which resulted within a week's time in pledges totalling \$22,500, payable in five equal annual installments. From the experiences in making the canvass, the belief was expressed that at least \$3,000 more could be raised during the following five years.

It ought to be said here that the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove had been actively interested in classical education for a number of years prior to 1858, so that the ground was well cultivated for just such an enterprise as a theological and classical school. In June, 1848, the church records state that "it was unanimously resolved to build a congregational school-

house on the lower end of the church lot to be governed as the congregation shall direct". In this building a classical school was conducted for about ten years. The tuition was ten dollars per year for the English rudiments and fifteen dollars for Latin and Greek, tuition to be paid quarterly. The school was to be governed by the church pastor and three directors elected annually by the congregation. The directors were to visit the school once a month. The pastor's salary was \$600 per year, one-half to be paid by the congregation and the other half to be furnished by the income from this school. While this school cannot be thought of as a predecessor of Missionary Institute, nevertheless, the establishment of this classical school showed the progressive educational spirit of the leaders of the local church. A person cannot help but wonder whether there would have been sufficient interest in the congregation without such a practical background to take the necessary steps to secure the location of Missionary Institute in this community. No doubt many incentives were operative, but the maintenance of such a school by the congregation over a period of a decade was by no means the least.

There was a family situation that was very influential in bringing Selinsgrove into the picture as a candidate town, and that ought to be related here. When Rev. Henry Ziegler was canvassing for funds in Perry County in behalf of Loysvle, he evidently found money-raising rather difficult in certain localities. Whereupon his wife, the daughter of John App, intimated that her father might be interested in making a contribution, particularly if the institution would be located in Selinsgrove. Dr. Ziegler then corresponded with Col. William F. Wagenseller, the Hon. J. G. L. Shindel, and John App, all members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Council, pointing out the advantages of having Missionary Institute located in Selinsgrove. In consequence, the local church circulated the subscription list, and the members and citizens subscribed very generously as already indicated. This undoubtedly led to the abandonment of all thought by the local people of locating the Institute anywhere but in Selinsgrove.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church Committee reported in April, 1858, to the Board of Managers of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Institute at Baltimore that Selinsgrove was a candidate for the location of Missionary Institute. The local committee submitted eleven inducements for the location of Missionary Institute in Selinsgrove. These were as follows: (1) \$22,500 had already been subscribed, payable in five equal annual install-

ments with the belief that \$3,000 more could be raised within the next five years, and that \$15,012 of the above amount was ready to be turned over provided the Institute would be located in Selinsgrove, (2) the citizens, Lutherans, Reformed, Methodists, and others had shown much liberality, (3) the population of the town was about 1,200 and would furnish about fifty students for the schools connected with the Institute, (4) there were two Lutheran Churches, the one connected with the East Pennsylvania Synod with about 250 members and the other connected with the Central Pennsylvania Synod with about 200 members; also the Methodist and the German Reformed Churches, (5) the people were intelligent, with considerable wealth, (6) it was a Lutheran community and primarily an agricultural section, (7) there were connections with the North Central Railroad at Sunbury, five miles away, (8) the town of Selinsgrove was located on the boundary line between the two Synods, (9) the Evangelical Lutheran Church already had a schoolhouse thirty by thirty feet in size and two stories high, connected with its church building, that had already been offered for use free to the male and female departments until suitable buildings could be erected, (10) a private dwelling, large enough to accommodate the family of the professor, and a recitation room for students, could be rented at seventy-five dollars per year, (11) and finally, the location of Selinsgrove was healthful and was attested to by three physicians, the pastor of the church, and by eighteen other citizens of the community.

This health statement was incorporated in the application because of rumors to the contrary that the citizens of Selinsgrove and community were constantly suffering from various maladies such as "typhoid, remittent and bilious fevers and agues". Reverend Samuel Domer, the pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in a letter dated March 12, 1858, testifies "that within three years, there has been very little sickness of any kind, and that only seven members of my congregation, several quite aged, had died during that time". He declared that he had enjoyed good health during his residence. The report admitted that some years prior there was considerable sickness, but the draining of the marsh lands along the creek and river for the purpose of bringing the land under cultivation had largely eliminated the fevers. However, at the time when the question of location of the Institute was in the limelight, these reports of former conditions still persisted as expressive of a situation still prevailing. The great rivalry among the competing towns merely aggravated such reports and made vigorous denials necessary as a mere matter of self defense.

The committee of the Lutheran Mission Institute at Baltimore visited Selinsgrove to view the place. The members of the committee were pleased with the town and the surrounding country, and expressed themselves as favoring the location of the Institute at this place. They were disposed, however, at first to look with disfavor upon the establishment of a school for the education of women, but held a more favorable attitude when they departed.

The Selection of Selinsgrove for Missionary Institute

On March 24, 1858, the board met, but failed to reach a decision on the location. The hesitancy rested largely on the fact that the Board felt that the theological department of the Institute was the more important while the people of Selinsgrove stressed both the classical department and the school for women students. While the education of women was recognized to be desirable as well as that of men, it was thought not practical to have both men and women students together on the same campus and in the same classes. This accounts for the proposed plan of having two separate institutions on two different campuses for the two sexes. These were the Missionary Institute with its classical and theological departments and the Susquehanna Female College. The citizens of Selinsgrove were primarily interested in schools with a classical department for the education of both men and women. In fact, they declared that "unless such provision could be made, they were not in the market for the Institute". They wanted schools in which their sons and daughters could be educated without going from home to get the education. Definite assurances came from the committee that this would be the case, and in consequence the Selinsgrove people definitely declared themselves for the Institute. The committee on location interviewed the other towns, but Selinsgrove ultimately became the choice of location in March, 1858. The choice was finally made on the basis of the generous contributions of the Selinsgrove citizens as well as the central location with respect to the church, its beauty, and accessibility from all parts of the Commonwealth. This selection was finally approved May 3, 1858.

John App, a member of the Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove, proposed a site for the Institute building to the committee on location, consisting of George Schnure, Benjamin Schoch, and Anthony Simpson, Esq. This site of 6-66/100 acres, located partly in the borough of Selinsgrove and partly in Penn Town-

ship, was a part of his own property and was later purchased by the committee for \$1,000 in consideration of a subscription of that amount which App had previously made to the Institute. Judging from his generosity in other community enterprises and his interest in the proposed Missionary Institute, John App probably made additional subscriptions but this together with the amount cannot be definitely verified by any known original records at this time. It is perhaps not too much to say that had it not been for the extreme interest and activity of the local Evangelical Lutheran Church membership; the labors of the pastor, the Reverend Samuel Domer; the interest of John App, a prosperous and generous landowner in the community; and the Reverend Henry Ziegler, App's son-in-law, Missionary Institute would never have been located in Selinsgrove. Mr. App's initial interest and the Reverend Samuel Domer's efforts made the raising of the necessary funds possible.

When Selinsgrove was finally chosen as the site of Missionary Institute in 1858, the choice by no means met with universal approval. Every now and then the minority parties found occasion to express themselves in favor of some other place. This undercurrent of dissatisfaction finally emerged again in considerable force during the agitation and campaign for the erection of the second building on the campus. The agitators evidently felt that it was the time to change location, if a change in location was ever to be made. At the January meeting of the board of directors in 1893, a report was made that only \$1,300 had been secured by subscription in Selinsgrove towards the new classroom building. Great dissatisfaction prevailed for a time because of this almost negligible amount subscribed by Selinsgrove. This dissatisfaction manifested itself in an effort at the next meeting of the board of directors to receive bids from other towns. It was then that an offer from Hughesville was considered for the location of the school at that place. The proposition was that the town would raise \$25,000 for the land and the building, but since the land and the building at Selinsgrove were worth just as much, the board discerned no advantage in accepting the offer. Instead, the board determined the location of the proposed new building, and thereby settled permanently the question of removal of the institution elsewhere. At a special meeting of the board, late in January, the Reverend Frank P. Manhart of Philadelphia was elected the financial secretary to collect funds for the new building. He accepted and assumed his duties to collect funds for the new building as well as for a library, scholarships, and increased endowment.

Charter of Incorporation Secured

Just as soon as the necessary funds and land had been obtained, a committee consisting of the Reverend Samuel Domer, Colonel Anthony C. Simpson, Benjamin Schoch, and George Schnure made application to the Court of Common Pleas of Snyder County, May 1858, for a charter of incorporation of both the "Missionary Institute of the Evangelical Lutheran Church" and the "Susquehanna Female College of the Evangelical Lutheran Church" of Selinsgrove. This charter was ordered granted by the court September 24, 1858. The president judge at the time was the Honorable Abraham Scott Wilson (1842-1861).

The Opening of the Two Institutions

The Board of Directors of the institution effected an organization in May by electing Doctor Benjamin Kurtz, president; Reverend Samuel Domer, vice-president; Reverend Henry Ziegler, corresponding secretary; Colonel Anthony C. Simpson, recording secretary; and James K. Davis, treasurer. The board proceeded at once to make the necessary plans to erect a building on the lot chosen for that purpose so that it might be completed within a year. Similar steps were taken by the board of the Susquehanna Female College for the erection of a building on a suitable site for the "female department".

During the interim, the church council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church unanimously offered to the Board of Directors the free use of the church property for the housing of the theological department and the male and female departments of the classical school until the necessary suitable buildings could be erected. It was agreed that "the Board of Directors were to pay for any charges necessary to make the place suitable for school purposes, and the teachers were instructed to use their endeavors to keep the rooms from being damaged by the scholars". The classical departments occupied the Sunday School room of the church building proper, and the theological department occupied the parish house, located in the rear of the church building. This building later became known as the sexton's home. The former department opened June 14, 1858, with seventy-five students while the latter department did not open until October 7, 1858, and then with only twenty-six students. The classical department had for its students young persons preparing themselves for the Junior Class in college and for the theological department; the theological department had for its students college graduates and other suitable men "without a full college training but whose talents and training fitted

them to take a course in theology to qualify them for the Christian ministry". Both sexes were instructed here during the first year of the school. In the meantime, the buildings that were to house the two schools were pushed forward to completion for occupancy by the opening of the school year of 1859. When the schools opened for the second year, the Missionary Institute and the Classical Department for the men students occupied what is known today as Selinsgrove Hall, and the Classical Department for the women students, known as the Susquehanna Female College, opened in a building on North Market Street, known today as the Noetling Building.

The Board of Directors of Missionary Institute

The management of Missionary Institute was vested in a board of directors not to exceed thirty members, one-half to be ministers of the Gospel and the remaining half to be laymen. Three-fourths of the directors had to be members of the Lutheran Church. The Board was a self-perpetuating body, and for this reason no marked changes in the personnel of the board are particularly noticeable with the coming years. It is only over long periods of time that changes begin to attract attention.

The First Building on the Campus

The three-story brick building, known today as Selinsgrove Hall, was the first building on the campus, and was named so because the people of the town and vicinity very generously provided the plot of land and the needed funds for its construction. Its cornerstone was laid September 1, 1858. The building was dedicated November 9, 1859. Doctor Kurtz was in charge of the dedicatory services. It is needful to remind ourselves that at the time of the erection of this building the town had a population of only about 1,200 and presented a very different appearance from what it does today. At that time no buildings were found between High Street and the campus except the two buildings on the corner of High Street. The site of the Missionary Institute building was actually "out in the country", and was rather remote from the town proper. This isolated location becomes deeply impressed upon our minds today by an incident on the part of the student body and the citizens of the community that shows at the same time the fine spirit and enthusiasm that must have motivated these people in overcoming the handicaps of distance between the campus and the town. In the fall of 1859, the students asked for a holiday of several days for the purpose of building a plank walk from the town to the school and to plant trees along the walk. The citizens of the community furnished the railroad ties and

planks. In the course of three days, the work was completed and the students returned to their studies again. During the winter season of heavy snows, the walk was kept clean by a snow plow built by the students, and operated by their own man power.

An account of how this first building was immediately put to use will now be in order. The basement and the northern end of the first floor were used by Principal Born and his family. The basement contained the kitchen and the dining room for the family and for the students who boarded there. At the northern end of the first floor were the living rooms of the family. At the southern end of the second floor was the chapel which was used until there was more demand for dormitory space, when it was made into two rooms for that purpose. Then the width of the two rooms including the hall was made into a chapel on the first floor with two rooms on each side of the hall for recitation purposes. The chapel on the first floor was not nearly so large as was the one on the second floor owing to the need for classrooms. The theology room was located on the second floor on the east side of the building. This first building, known then as the Missionary Institute Building, was renamed Selinsgrove Hall at the time when the institution became a four-year collegiate school called Susquehanna University. At that time it was remodeled for men's dormitory. In 1917-18, it was remodeled again.

The Faculty and Curriculum of Missionary Institute (1858-1859)

At a meeting of the Board of Directors February 9, 1857, Doctor Benjamin Kurtz was elected Superintendent and First Professor of Theology. Reverend Henry Ziegler was selected Assistant Superintendent and Second Professor of Theology June 26, 1858. The salary of a professorship was fixed at \$800 per year. In addition, Reverend Samuel Domer was made principal of the Classical Department and professor of Ancient Languages and Literature, and of the English Branches; and William Noetling was made professor of mathematics, mechanical philosophy, and civil engineering, and vice-principal of the Classical Department.

The theological department conducted a curriculum of three years, each year consisting of two terms. Sometimes the year was divided into three terms; fall, winter, and spring. The courses of study were exegesis, didactic and polemic theology, hermeneutics, Biblical archaeology, church government, church history, sacred chronology, missions and revivals, logic, and rhetoric. The Classical

Department conducted a curriculum of two years known as the Freshman and Sophomore Years. In the Freshman Year were taught Xenophon's anabasis, Greek Testament, Cicero's orations, Livy, Cyropedia, Ovid, Latin and Greek Exercises, Latin and Greek Prose Composition, algebra, plane geometry, outlines of history, English composition, literature, rhetoric, and declamation; in the Sophomore year were taught Herodotus, Xenophon's Memorabilia, Homer, Cicero, Horace, Tacitus, Latin and Greek Exercises, mental philosophy, natural philosophy, physiology, trigonometry, surveying, mensuration, analytic geometry, conic sections, English composition, rhetoric, logic, and declamation.

The classical department had a preparatory department followed by a curriculum of two years' work on the college level, designed to prepare students for teaching and to enter the advanced classes in college. In course of time, this preparatory department became known as the academy and was continued until 1923. The school year consisted of thirty-nine weeks of three terms: fifteen, twelve, and twelve weeks each respectively. Testimonials of good character were required for admission to this department. The applicant was expected to have "at least a plain English or German education". He was then admitted to the class for which he seemed best qualified. The classical department included English, scientific, and classical courses of instruction. The preparatory department gave instruction in reading, writing, orthography, English grammar, mental arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, history of the United States, algebra, composition and declamation, latin grammar, latin exercises, greek grammar, greek lessons, latin reader, greek reader, Caesar, Nepos, Virgil, and Sallust.

Expenses in Missionary Institute

No tuition was charged students in the theological department. The original thought prevailed that all maintenance expenses for this department could be met by voluntary contributions from interested individuals and congregations. In fact, no effort was put forth at first to build up an endowment for the school because such a program implied mistrust in God's providential care of things pertaining to His kingdom. The leaders believed the expenses could be met by the regular and systematic giving of the church people just as is done in the case of missions and church benevolences. It was soon discovered, however, that such a plan wouldn't work, and that a sizeable endowment was indispensable for the well-being of the school.

A person today is much impressed with the low cost in the early days of Missionary Institute. The tuition in the classical department ranged from five to nine dollars a term, depending on the grade of studies taken, the boarding cost was from one and one-half to two dollars per week, the laundry charges were seventy-five cents per month, and a furnished room (except sheets, pillow cases, spread, quilt, and towel) was fifty cents per week. A fee of one dollar per term was charged per student for janitor service. The laboratory fee for each student in the physical sciences was three dollars per term. Each student had his own stove and supplied his own fuel. The students "abroad" were required to room in the dormitory. The entire cost of a year's schooling, including tuition, room and board, laundry, light and heat, ranged from \$125 to \$150 a year.

Rules and Regulations of the School

The first catalogues state that the discipline of the school was parental in character. This was certainly in keeping with the times both in school and in the home. Profane, obscene, or reproachful language, keeping firearms in rooms, playing cards, engaging in gambling, and the drinking of intoxicating liquors were expressly forbidden. No student was permitted to use tobacco in any way in the building or on the campus. Throwing refuse matter out of the windows or into the halls of the building was forbidden. Each student was required to keep a pail of water in his room in case of fire. Students weren't privileged "to visit the kitchen except at mealtime".

Students were required to sign a pledge relative to diligence in the pursuit of their studies, obedience to the rules and regulations of the school, and to be in their room during study hours except when required to be at recitations. Students were not privileged to absent themselves from examinations. No visitors were admitted to students' rooms during study hour. Students were not permitted to attend any parties or mixed assemblies. In case of public functions, students were required to be in their rooms within fifteen minutes after the close of such functions. The daily schedule of a student was as follows:

Rise at the ringing of the first bell	5:00 A. M.
Prayer	6:00 A. M.
Recreation	6:00 to 8:00 A. M.
Study and Class Work	8:00 to 12:00 Noon
Recreation	12:00 to 2:00 P. M.
Study and Class Work	2:00 to 5:00 P. M.
Recreation	5:30 to 7:30 P. M.
Study Hours	7:30 to 9:30 P. M.
Private Devotions	9:30 to 10:00 P. M.

There was a roll call in the dormitory at 7:30 P. M., and students were required to remain in their room after that hour. The school day began with the ringing of the bell at five o'clock A. M., and continued until ten o'clock P. M. when all lights had to be extinguished. A strong religious atmosphere pervaded the school. Chapel was held every morning, and daily evening worship was conducted in the students' rooms. On Sunday, the students were required to attend regularly public worship at such places as the faculty directed, except in cases in which parents or guardians directed otherwise. The penalties for violation of any of these regulations ranged from reprimands, and curtailment of privileges, to suspension and expulsion.

The Superintendents of Missionary Institute

The period of Missionary Institute extended from 1858 to 1895 when the institution became officially known by the name of Susquehanna University. During these thirty seven years, Missionary Institute had four different heads known as superintendents. These were Reverend Benjamin Kurtz (1858-1865), Reverend Henry Ziegler (1865-1881), Reverend Peter Born (1881-1893), and the Reverend Frank P. Manhart (1893-1895). In 1893, during the administration of Reverend Manhart, the official title of the head of Missionary Institute was changed from superintendent to president. When President Manhart resigned in January, 1895, Doctor J. R. Dimm was elected president of the institution.

The Susquehanna Female College

A Board of Trustees of eleven members was chosen for the Susquehanna Female College to secure a charter, to prepare regulations and a constitution for its management, and to provide the necessary buildings and grounds. Although closely associated with Missionary Institute; it needs to be emphasized that the "female college" was not a part of it, but a separate enterprise from that of Missionary Institute, although practically the same men were interested, both financially and administratively, in both institutions. The Susquehanna Female College was under the control of a special board of its own, but both institutions were under the jurisdiction of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The \$22,500 already subscribed largely by the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove was to be divided between the two proposed schools. Something over \$15,000 or about two-thirds of the total amount was to be for the use of the Missionary Institute, and the remainder or about one third was for the Susque-

hanna Female College. The female college was largely a local project made possible through the interest and the financial contributions of the members of the local Evangelical Lutheran Church. It did not receive any worthwhile financial support other than from the local community.

The question of the location of the Susquehanna Female College in Selinsgrove appears to have been long delayed. As late as November 15, 1858, Doctor Kurtz wrote to Reverend Domer stressing the necessity of procuring the plot of ground owned by Leonard App (1791-1869), a brother to John App (1793-1876), a benefactor of Missionary Institute, on North Market Street as a location for the contemplated female college. Doctor Kurtz urged Reverend Domer to use his influence to secure the property at once, erect the additional building, and make all necessary improvements for school purposes. Doctor Kurtz had in mind procuring Professor C. C. Baughman of Harrisburg as the first principal. He considered him a very able man and "with him as its head, the community would be assured of a first-class school from the beginning". He felt that he could be gotten, providing an adequate building with the necessary equipment and a suitable dwelling could be furnished him by spring or at least by midsummer of 1859.

In the meantime, this private property consisting at the time of a large lot with a brick building, erected by Mr. App as a residence for himself and family, was purchased by the citizens of Selinsgrove. A three-story brick building was then erected against this private dwelling on its south side for the use of the Susquehanna Female College. The smaller two-story building on the north side was for the private use of the principal and his family. It was planned to have a similar building attached to the main building on the south side to give the entire structure a symmetrical appearance. This proposed addition, however, was never realized. The Susquehanna Female College then became housed in a substantial three-story brick building on the northwest corner of North Market and Snyder Streets, and has become generally known as the Noetling Building because at one time it was the property and residence of Professor William C. Noetling.

For about ten years the Susquehanna Female College was a rather flourishing institution, well-patronized, and under the immediate supervision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Its primary objective was to provide young women with a college education. It was what might be called today an exclusive and select school. Its faculty was made up of graduates of some of the best schools in

America. It prospered until public education attained prominence, and received full support from the general public, and then it began to decline. In its opening year, thirty-four students were enrolled, and six years later, the enrollment had increased to 112. In course of time the entire property became insolvent and was sold for debt. The property was purchased by Colonel Henry C. Eyer. For a time, the belief continued that it was still an institution of the church, and hence the Evangelical Lutheran Church continued to patronize and support it. Mr. Eyer rented the building to Reverend Samuel Domer who conducted the school for four or five years. Then Mr. Eyer sold the property to Reverend Domer, and the fact became known that it was an individually owned and controlled undertaking. Once more, it became encumbered in debt. Its former friends not only withdrew their support but actually opposed it. It began to decline very rapidly. Reverend Domer then sold it to Professor Noetting who conducted the school until 1873, when it was finally abandoned as a female school. Its women students were then admitted to Missionary Institute.

Curriculum of the Susquehanna Female College

The school had a four-year curriculum. In the first year, algebra, geometry, latin, greek, german, french, natural philosophy, English literature, botany, art, chronology, composition and reading were taught; in the second year algebra, geometry, latin, greek, german, french, chemistry, rhetoric, zoology, mythology, chronology, composition, and reading were taught; in the third year trigonometry, astronomy, french, logic, mental philosophy, Biblical history, Biblical geography, mineralogy, geology, ancient and modern history, physiology, composition and reading were taught; and in the fourth year were taught moral philosophy, natural theology, Butler's analogy, evidences of Christianity, Biblical literature, physical geography, composition, and reading. Nearly all the courses of study during the first two years were regular and required; in the third and fourth years, about one-half were required and the others were electives. For graduation, the same amount of work was required, but not the same kind of work.

Scholastic Year, Enrollment and Expenses

The scholastic year consisted of thirty-nine weeks, divided into two terms, usually from August to the Christmas holidays, and from the beginning of January to the end of May. The catalogue for 1870-71 lists eighty-two students, fully two-thirds being from Selinsgrove and the

immediate vicinity. The tuition, room, board, light, fuel, and laundry were eighty-three dollars for the first term and ninety-seven dollars for the second term. Later the scholastic year consisted of three terms of thirteen weeks each. There was likewise a preparatory department that provided the preparatory training for admission to the regular four year college curriculum.

Rules and Regulations of the College

The Bible was read daily and Biblical recitations were required weekly of the students. The students were required to attend public worship in company with the principal and his family, and the other teachers of the school. By special request, privileges were granted to students to attend the church services designated by their parents. No visitors were admitted on the Sabbath. Strict and uniform obedience was exacted. The idle and incorrigible were dismissed from the institution after proper efforts for their recovery proved ineffectual. The young women were not permitted to leave the grounds without the permission of the principal. Doors were closed for the night at 9:30 P. M. Non-resident students were required to room and board in the institution.

Principals of the School

The principals of the school were Reverend C. C. Baughman (1858-1863), the Reverend Samuel Domer (1863-1868), and Professor William Noetling (1868-1873). Each principal was assisted by a staff of about six faculty members, for the most part women instructors. In April, 1873, Professor Noetling opened a school in the building, known as the Snyder County Normal Institute, whose aim was to prepare young people in the theory and practice of teaching. The school was continued during the time he served as the county superintendent of schools, (1872-1877). When he resigned the county superintendency to become professor of pedagogy at the Bloomsburg State Normal School, the school for the further training of teachers was permanently abandoned.

Missionary Institute Becomes Susquehanna University

In some respects the name Missionary Institute proved a drawback to the school. To many people not familiar with the aims and purposes of the institution, it meant a school exclusively devoted to the education of ministerial candidates, and to such who were preparing themselves for the work of home and foreign missions. While this constituted much of the program, still the opportunities for a thorough classical education preparatory to other

vocations were present. Because of the name, undoubtedly many young people with other vocations in mind than the Christian ministry never seriously considered coming to Missionary Institute. This handicap was frequently recognized as early as the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and recommendations were made to the effect that a change in the charter and name should be effected. As far back as 1880 there was agitation to change Missionary Institute into a four year collegiate institution, but with a different name.

It is interesting to note that one charter established the two institutions, Missionary Institute and the Susquehanna Female College. Both schools were authorized to educate, to graduate, to issue diplomas, and to confer degrees. It appears that the only thing necessary to make a change in the name would have been to remove the word "female" from the charter, and then the classical department would be known as Susquehanna College while the name Missionary Institute could appropriately be continued for the theological department. It was thought the name "Susquehanna" would be most fitting on account of the beautiful river upon whose banks the institution was located, just as Lehigh University was named after another Pennsylvania river.

At the meeting of the board of directors December 4, 1894, it was unanimously resolved to enlarge the curriculum to cover four years' work on the college level and to substitute the name Susquehanna University for Missionary Institute. The charter of Missionary Institute from its beginning carried with it university privileges with the right to grant college degrees. The Board of Directors petitioned the Court of Common Pleas of Snyder County to have the original charter amended so as to include the proposed changes. The court granted the application February 28, 1895, the president judge being the Honorable Harold M. McClure. The institution now became known as "The Susquehanna University of the Evangelical Lutheran Church". Even at the time, there were in evidence some doubts as to the propriety of assuming such a high sounding name for the school. Many of the constituents much preferred a more modest name for the institution. Although efforts since have been put forth to change the name from "university" to "college" as being more fitting to its size and program of studies, the name "university" has persisted to continue largely because of sentiment during these many years.

A Half-Century of Progress (1895-1947)

Since 1895, the college has been officially known as a

four-year collegiate institution by the name of Susquehanna University. The period of time from 1858 to 1895 may well be called the pioneer period during which time the institution was known as Missionary Institute. The history for the past fifty years may appropriately be divided into two more or less distinct periods called the period of material expansion (1895-1928), and the period of academic concentration (1928-1947). The period of material expansion covers a period of thirty-three years, and the period of academic concentration covers a period of nineteen years.

During the period of material expansion, the campus was enlarged to include sixty-two acres of land and the number of buildings was increased to sixteen. In 1894, the campus was very small and Selinsgrove Hall was the only building. The campus today is very large and beautiful, well kept, and arouses the admiration of visitors. The many varieties of trees make it unusually interesting and attractive. During the period of material expansion, the institution had five presidents and two acting presidents. These were — Jonathan Rose Dimm (1895-1899), Charles W. Heisler (1899-1901), John I. Woodruff* (1901-1902), George W. Enders (1902-1904), John B. Focht (1904-1905), Charles T. Aikens (1905-1927), and Jacob Deihl* (1927-1928).

During the period of academic concentration, beginning in 1928 and continuing to the present time, the institution has had one president. With the administration of Doctor G. Morris Smith, increasing attention was given to the scholastic side of the institution. This does not mean that its quantitative growth was neglected, but that its qualitative growth received a new emphasis. Many changes were effected during the years. A new type of catalogue was prepared, the faculty was greatly strengthened, a professionally administered library was started, the admission requirements were put on a new basis, new qualitative standards were introduced into the classrooms, an improved physical education program for both men and women was made possible, the internal administration of the institution was improved, the general alumni association and its nineteen regional centers were more efficiently organized, the endowment fund was increased, the debt of the institution was greatly diminished, two new buildings were added, and the campus was enlarged and beautified. In 1930 Susquehanna University became an accredited member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In 1931 the institution was received into the membership of the Association of

*Acting President

American Colleges. In 1938 the university became a member of the American Council of Education. In 1939 the Conservatory of Music became duly accredited to prepare both teachers and supervisors of public school music. These constitute the major accomplishments of this period of academic concentration.

Selected Readings

- Baer, Dallas C., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
(1843-1943)
- Cruikshank, Margaret A., John Nicolaus Kurtz, Life and
Genealogy
- Hutter, Rev. John, Eulogy on the Life and Character of
Benjamin Kurtz
- Lutheran Observer Files (1835-1866)
- Minute Book of Board of Directors
- North, Audrey, The Chronology of Missionary Institute,
Susquehanna University Studies, March, 1943
- The Missionary Institute Journal Files
- The Lanthorn (1896-1947)
- The Susquehanna Files
- The Susquehanna Alumni Quarterly
- Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Vols. 1 and 2
- Ziegler, John A. M., Father and Son, The Life Story of
Henry Ziegler

CHAPTER 28

Public Social Welfare Organizations of the County

All who would win joy, must share it; happiness was
born a twin. Lord Byron

Rolling Green Park

Recreation and amusements in one form or another have prevailed throughout the centuries for the purpose of satisfying a human need. Parks have been established as suitable places for this particular purpose. Whether we like it or not, back of the opening of needed amusement centers lies the desire on the part of some one to make out of them a profit. Rolling Green Park in this respect is in no way different from any other park or business enterprise. The opening of the park originally was primarily for the purpose of providing a market for the sale of steel. Rolling Green Park had its beginning as early as 1904 when Guy Webster, President of the York Bridge Company, employed P. H. Gentzel, an engineer, to come to this community to uncover ways and means by which the company's products might be used. Manufactured products can be sold only where there is a market and sometimes it becomes necessary to create a market for them.

The only way the people from the west side of the river had to get to Sunbury was by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, by the use of ferries, or by the way of the old wooden bridge across the river from Blue Hill to Northumberland. This need led in 1906-1907 to the construction of the Bainbridge Street Bridge across the Susquehanna River. At the same time, the idea of a trolley line between Selinsgrove and Sunbury via Hummels Wharf and Shamokin Dam got under way. Thus in 1907, both the river bridge and the trolley line were built. In course of time travel on the trolley line was not so heavy as was anticipated, so another outlet had to be devised to get the people to ride the trolley. As a result Rolling Green Park was brought into existence.

The land which is now Rolling Green Park, located in Monroe Township, and consisting of forty-seven acres of land, was purchased in 1908 by the trolley company from Phillip M. Teats and wife for \$9,841.66. The deed was recorded on August 20, 1908. The grading of landscape, the planting of trees, the construction of buildings, the building of the trolley station, the making of the present lake by men working with pick and shovel and teams hitched to scrapers have made possible the present beautiful park. The park was first known as "The Peoples' Playground", so called by the trolley com-

pany, with the name brilliantly displayed by means of a large electric sign along the bank of the lake. The present name of "Rolling Green Park" was chosen by means of a contest. The winner of the award of twenty-five dollars was Mrs. Charles Kissinger (nee Lulu Eckbert) of Lewistown. Mrs. Kissinger was the granddaughter of a Mr. Eckbert who years ago conducted a hotel in Selinsgrove where the present Atlantic and Pacific Store is now located. The present owner of the park added the phrase "Central Pennsylvania's Largest Amusement Park".

The various improvements of the park and the introduction of the amusement devices took place over a period of time. In 1908 the dance pavilion was built with a steel framework and was opened to the public for dances on Saturday, July 25, 1908, and continued weekly on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings during the open season. Band concerts are held on Wednesday and Friday evenings. During the day, picnics by families, community organizations, and Sunday Schools, as well as Labor Day picnics occur. In 1909 the present theatre was built with a steel framework. It opened May 30, with a matinee, two shows, and moving pictures in the evening. The pictures were changed on Monday and Thursday. Charles F. Search served as the stage manager from 1909 to 1939. In 1939 the Ella Kramer Stock Company took over this phase of the entertainment and has continued up to the present time. From 1908 to 1914 the only forms of amusement at the park were the theatre and the dance pavilion. After 1914 there were added the merry-go-round, the shooting gallery, the dodgem building with the dodgem ride, the canoes and water bicycles, the ferris wheel, ponies for the kiddies, the little coaster, the novelty stand, the three rides, lover's ride, and kiddies ride, the penny arcade, the popcorn and peanut stand, and the park restaurant.

On April 24, 1934, the Trolley Company which included the trolley line, and the park were sold by order of the court to George W. Rockwell, J. Simpson Kline, of Sunbury; D. Leslie Diehl, of Harrisburg; and Elmer E. Brunner, of York Haven. During the year 1934, the trolley line was dismantled. During the year 1935 Roman M. Spangler, a native of Red Lion, York County, managed the park for the owners, and during the year 1936 leased it until October, when he bought the park for \$20,000, and has owned and operated it since that time.

The Snyder-Middleswarth State Park

The Snyder-Middleswarth State Park, commonly known as the "Tall Timbers", stands as a monument to

the memory of two distinguished Snyder Countians, Governor Simon Snyder and the Honorable Ner Middleswarth. The park is located in the northwestern part of Snyder County, north-west of Troxelville, in Spring Township, on the slopes of Jacks Mountain, along the headwaters of Swift Run, one of the tributaries of the Middle Creek. Its area comprises approximately five hundred acres of woodland consisting of veteran hemlocks, white and pitch pines, and hardwoods. These trees vary from one hundred to one hundred twenty-five feet in height, from five feet to six feet in diameter, and undoubtedly are at least three centuries old. In course of time five hundred acres of land contiguous to the original tract were added, thus making the park area about one thousand acres in size. As far as is known, this area has never been touched by the woodman's axe and can veritably be designated as a virgin forest. It should be stated that the great expense of building a tram road into this forest for the removal of the timber was considered too great to be of any commercial value for the number of trees in the area. If this had not been the case, the timber would have been cut years ago. Its lack of commercial value on account of the transportation problem is the chief reason for the preservation of these magnificent trees to the present time. These trees stand today as living monuments of the original Penn's Woods.

This virgin timber tract was brought into prominence by Col. Henry W. Shoemaker and other members of the Pennsylvania Alpine Club. Col. Shoemaker was so engrossed and fascinated by the beauty of the forest that he suggested turning it into a state park and calling it the Snyder-Middleswarth State Park. Prior to 1919 this tract of timber land was little-known and even less publicized. It was simply taken for granted by the few people of the immediate community who knew anything at all about its existence. It was not until lovers of nature like the Alpine Club visited the site that this total area received prominence. This pilgrimage of nineteen members including Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, President of the Club; John H. Chatham, the Poet Laureate; George W. Wagenseller, Vice President; J. Herbert Walker, Secretary; and W. J. Barschat, State Forester and Guide, left Middleburg Sunday, August 24, 1919, for a hike to "High Top" in Jacks Mountain, about five miles from Troxelville. "High Top" is 2,100 feet above sea level and from its summit an excellent view of the various range of mountains is afforded. On Sunday, November 9, 1919, the club made a second visit to this area and was impressed more than ever with the scenic beauty of the place, the picturesque

ness of Swift Run, the mountain laurel, the flowers and ferns, and the stately virgin timber. Steps were immediately taken for the incorporation and the setting apart of this locality as a state park.

The bill to incorporate the area and to make it a state park was drafted by the Honorable Charles B. Witmer of Sunbury, and was introduced into the State Legislature by the Hon. William C. McConnell of Shamokin, state senator of the Twenty-seventh Senatorial District. The bill passed both houses of the legislature and was signed by Governor William C. Sprowl, April 12, 1921. The primary purpose of the law was to preserve the virgin timber, the pines and the hemlock, and the different hardwoods. The tall timbers may be considered among the finest specimens of big trees in existence in the entire state. Appropriations were provided by the General Assembly to make possible the immediate development of the park, its preservation, and improvement. The law provided for the appointment of ten citizens of the state by the governor as a board of commissioners known as the Snyder-Middleswarth Park Commission. The board was to serve without salary except for the payment of necessary expenses by the state. It was empowered to determine the boundary of the park, make all needed improvements for the accommodations of visitors, and to build roads and driveways through the mountain vastnesses for the protection of the trees against forest fires and for providing an opportunity to visitors to view first-hand these virgin forest lands. The park today is an attractive spot, and Swift Run is the favorite haunt of the fishermen. A good supply of fresh water and good camping facilities are provided for the convenience of the general public. The park comprises two picnic grounds known as the upper and lower parks. In both of these areas, a plentiful supply of pure spring water is piped to conveniently-placed drinking fountains. Shelters, fire-places, and tables are provided for the picnickers. Tourists are allowed free camping at this park for one night. Permission has to be obtained from the Forest Ranger or his assistants in order to camp for a longer period.

The Pennsylvania German Banquet

An outstanding social event of the native population of the county is the annual Pennsylvania German Banquet. Its primary purpose is to promote sociability and good-will among the people rather than to attempt to preserve their native tongue, customs, and traditions. The only requirement of admission is the ability to converse in the dialect. The entire program is carried on in

the native dialect and consists of singing, telling stories, recitations, brief remarks, and a very special address by some person of prominence. A very enjoyable feature of the program is the administering of the oath of allegiance (ferbinnerai) to the members present for the first time, and the presentation of a red rose or carnation to all members present seventy-five years old and over. The occasion is very popular as indicated by the large attendance from year to year.

The idea of such a social occasion originated in the mind of Professor John I. Woodruff, a member of the faculty of Susquehanna University for many years, and the one who has been very largely its guiding spirit ever since its beginning in 1933. An organization was never effected with a constitution and regularly elected officers, committees, and dues-paying memberships. Its continuation from year to year depends entirely upon the wishes of those in attendance. The annual meeting is held during the months of January, February, or March in the hall of the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Company of Selinsgrove, and the dinner is served by the ladies of the Firemen's Auxiliary.

The annual speaker for the banquet has always been a Pennsylvania German of great prominence. Thomas H. Harter, publisher of the KEYSTONE GAZETTE, Bellefonte, and former editor of the MIDDLEBURG POST and creator of "Boonastiel" gave the address in 1933; Rev. Fred D. Wentzel of Philadelphia, Director of Christian Education of the Reformed Church, in 1934; the Hon. Gabriel H. Moyer of Lebanon, in 1935; W. S. Troxell of the Allentown MORNING CALL, in 1936; Professor Alvin F. Kemp, the County Superintendent of Schools of Berks County, in 1937; Rev. Pierce E. Swope, D. D., Reformed Church minister of Lebanon, in 1938; Rev. John S. Hollenbach, S. T. D., Reformed Church minister of Manchester, Maryland, in 1939; Rev. Clarence R. Rahn, Reformed Church minister of Temple, Pa., in 1940; Rev. Grant H. Seidel, Evangelical Church minister of Shamokin, in 1941; and Rev. Pierce E. Swope, D. D., again in 1942. On account of the war emergency, no banquets were held in 1943, 1944, and 1945. On January 15, 1946, the Pennsylvania German Banquet was resumed. Rev. Grant H. Seidel of Royersford was again the speaker. At the banquet on January 7, 1947, Rev. Clarence R. Rahn was invited again to give the address. In January, 1948, the Reverend Pierce E. Swope served as the speaker for the third time.

The McClure Bean Soup

The McClure Bean Soup and Home-Coming Celebra-

tion originated many years ago in the minds of the surviving Civil War veterans then living in the western end of the county. Being naturally in a reminiscent frame of mind, they longed for an agency or institution that would help them to perpetuate the more pleasant memories of their army life. Matters began to take form with the organization of the Captain Michael Smith G. A. R. Post at Bannerville, July 23, 1883, at its first meeting on the second floor of the blacksmith shop of Joseph Peters. This organization from time to time held reunions and celebrations that took on the nature of a bean soup festival, but it was not until 1891 that the affair became an annual public event in the history of the local G. A. R. Post. From this time on the attendance was no longer restricted to the membership of the organization, but the entire community was invited to join the veterans in their celebration. The occasion rapidly developed into a popular event that commanded the interest of thousands of people of the neighboring counties.

In the year of its greatest expansion in 1891, Ner B. Middleswarth, a grandson of the Hon. Ner B. Middleswarth and veteran of the Civil War, was the chairman of the committee in charge of the celebration. Middleswarth succeeded in obtaining from the War Department "hard tack" to be served with the bean soup just as was done in Civil War days. This Civil War bean soup celebration was held at first in the neighborhood of Bannerville. The Bean Soup and Home Coming Celebration continued under the management of the G. A. R. Post until the year 1900, when the increasing age and diminishing numbers of the veterans made it no longer possible for them to continue the work. At this juncture, the Captain Henry K. Ritter Camp, Sons of Union War Veterans, took over the work and the responsibility, but the surviving veterans still assisted to the best of their strength to continue the celebration in accord with its original intent and purpose. The veterans were particularly concerned that the bean soup should be prepared and served in the original army fashion. Henry Kahley, a member of the local G. A. R. who had served as a cook in the Union Army, had the practical knowledge for its preparation.

The large crowd from year to year made it necessary to acquire a larger grove to accommodate the people. It was then transferred to a grove at McClure. Some years later, in 1925, a standing committee consisting of Sam Bubb, Elder Wagner, and Verne Erb purchased the land of the Cold Spring Grove from C. A. Wagner as a permanent location for the Bean Soup Celebration. The McClure Bean Soup Celebration has now become one of the

largest outdoor gatherings in Central Pennsylvania. In 1940 it is said that upwards of 50 thirty-five gallon kettles of soup were consumed by more than 35,000 people in attendance. Included in the soup were 1,300 pounds of beans, 1,300 pounds of beef, and 1,600 pounds of crackers. No doubt the present celebration has gone far afield from its original intent and scope, but it has nevertheless consistently maintained the central idea of holding fast to the "toothsome" bean soup of Civil War Days. Today, varied types of entertainments and amusements with music, sports, and exhibits of household furniture, hardware, stoves, washing machines, automobiles, and farm machinery may be found on the grounds, thus taking on the appearance of a large fair, but without an admission charge.

The event is held annually in a grove near the town on the second week of September, and consists of a three evening and a two-day celebration. The Saturday afternoon program usually consists of public addresses by persons who have achieved prominence in the civic and political life of the state and nation. During these latter years, the celebration had been advertised as the "McClure Bean Soup Home-coming and Republican Rally". Among the more prominent men who have addressed the gathering during the past twenty-five years may be mentioned Benjamin K. Focht, Edward M. Beers, Richard M. Simpson, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Senator Owen Brewster of Maine, James K. Davis, Samuel Wolfe, and Ira T. Fiss.

The Freeburg Reunion

This organization was effected in 1913. The first meeting was held in the theater at Rolling Green Park in August of this year, with the following officers: Benjamin Apple, president; Wilson Bussler, vice-president; William F. Brown, secretary; William F. Bittinger, treasurer; and Calvin F. Moyer, historian. Regular annual reunions have been held on the third Wednesday of August ever since in the park theater. During the years 1945 and 1946, the reunions were held in the Freeburg High School auditorium. The officers elected in 1946 were: Ben Moyer, president; Charles Roush, secretary; William F. Bittinger, treasurer; and Dr. George S. Moyer and Edgar L. Swartzlander, historians. The program usually consisted of music, public addresses generally by former residents of Freeburg, and the relating of personal anecdotes of former days. Each summer large crowds consisting of Freeburg residents and former residents now living in various parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, and Virginia, assembled for the reunion.

The Canal Boatmen's Reunion

The first Canal Boatmen's Reunion since the formal abandonment of the canal as a commercial highway in January, 1901, was held at Rolling Green Park on Saturday, August 21, 1915. The purpose of the reunion was to continue the acquaintanceships and to perpetuate the friendships of the canal boatmen and their friends. More than 500 boatmen, lock tenders, collectors, and officials of the Pennsylvania Canal, of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, together with their families and friends were present. The day formally began at 9:00 A. M. with the sound of the old canal bugle. The events of the day consisted of a formal program and business meeting in the park theater, of renewing old friendships and forming new ones, extending hearty greetings, engaging in reminiscences of the old canal days, relating canal yarns and anecdotes, swapping stories, traveling in memory the "old ditch" from beginning to end, and in well-wishing one another. Usually a quiz formed an educational feature concerning the traffic and travel on the canal. Sometimes the staging of an old-fashioned square dance common to canal life added to the merriment of the day. The last Saturday in August was permanently fixed as the time for holding the annual reunion, and Rolling Green Park was chosen as the regular annual meeting place. In 1947, the thirty-second annual reunion was held.

That there was a felt need for such a reunion is indicated by the fact that the attendance the following year of 1916 increased three-fold. The park was literally filled with conveyances of all kinds. The register indicated that the people had come from Danville, Bloomsburg, Lime Ridge, Berwick, Plymouth, Nanticoke, Wilkes-Barre, Shamokin, Lebanon, Bainbridge, Havre de Grace, Marietta, Columbia, Harrisburg, Newport, Lewistown, Altoona, Sinnemahoning, Liverpool, Port Trevorton, Selinsgrove, Sunbury, Northumberland, Milton, Watsontown, Muncy, Montoursville, Williamsport, Jersey Shore, Lock Haven, and other places. People had come from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio, and Washington, D. C. So popular had the reunion become and so marked was the interest in it, that a number of the boatmen arrived at the third reunion in 1917 at 4:00 A. M. to listen once more to the familiar sound of the canal bugle by Captain Reese B. Bartell of Newport. At the fourth reunion in 1918 at least 3,000 people were in attendance. The peak in attendance was reached in 1922 and 1929 with over 5,000 boatmen and their friends present, respectively. Another banner year was 1927 with over 2,000 in attendance. The attendance in other years ranged from 350 to 1,000 with an average

of around 400. At the one hundredth anniversary in 1928 of the building of the canal, visitors and boatmen from eleven states registered. Occasionally bad weather, coupled with the increasing age and the inevitable diminishing numbers of the boatmen with the years and war conditions, brought about a decrease in the number registered.

While the program of the day was largely one of happiness and merriment, the more thoughtful and serious-minded received their full share of consideration. The program in the park theater was opened with devotions. Usually some man of prominence addressed the assembly. This was frequently one of the boatmen such as Dr. Edward W. Toole, of Freeburg, or someone in the public limelight at the time such as the Hon. Frederick A. Godcharles, Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, or Dr. J. M. Reimensnyder. Resolutions in memory of the boatmen who departed during the year were adopted. This plan was followed until 1927, when an annual memorial church service in September was put into operation. Such services have been held ever since on the third Sunday of the month at Espy, Milton, Port Trevorton, Liverpool, Newport, or in Harrisburg. Usually at the reunions were exhibited a vast display of photographs of scenes along the canal, exhibits of models of canal boats and tug boats, and of canal locks. In 1928, there was on display a fine display of photographs of the Selinsgrove Boatyards. At the first reunions not all of the time was devoted to the painting of word pictures of the romantic days of the old canal era. Considerable consideration was given in the nature of facts and figures to the possibility of re-opening the canal again or at least to making the Susquehanna River a navigable stream. Evidently the memories of days long since past haunted these old canal boatmen, and they indulged in wishful thinking about the restoration of these happy days again.

Port Trevorton Old Home Week

The Canal Boatmen's Reunion always held its celebration on the last Saturday in August, and the Port Trevorton Old Home Week began on the Sunday immediately after and terminated on the following Saturday evening. Adam W. Aucker (1865-1936) served as the chairman of the Park Association for a number of years, and was one of the moving spirits of the organization. Old Home Week has been observed annually since 1926 except during the war years. The exercises for the most part have been held in the Riverside or Community Park in Port Trevorton, and have always been well attended.

The week's celebration began on Sunday morning with a union Sunday School made up of the Sunday Schools of the vicinity. Then followed the church services with some prominent minister preaching the sermon. Religious services were also held in the afternoon and evening. Ministers and laymen were called upon to give addresses at these services. Special music was usually supplied by local groups or by imported talent. Among the speakers have been Bishop William M. Bell of the United Brethren Church; Dr. Clyde H. Lynch, president of Lebanon Valley College; Dr. Abraham A. Winters, superintendent of the Evangelical Home at Lewisburg; Rev. John Yeisley of Millmont; the Hon. Francis C. Bowersox of Wilkes-Barre; Prof. George W. Walborn, Prof. Frank S. Attinger, and Prof. Arthur M. Felker, Snyder County School Superintendents; Dr. John I. Woodruff, Dr. George E. Fisher, and Dr. George F. Dunkelberger, of Susquehanna University; the Hon. Frederick A. Godcharles of Milton; J. A. Boak, master of the State Grange; the Hon. Miles I. Potter, A. Francis Gilbert, and Albert W. Johnson of our county courts; the Hon. John V. Leshner, Ex-Congressman from Sunbury; the Hon. Warren Van Dyke, superintendent of State Highways; the Hon. George A. Erdley, member of the Assembly from Snyder County; Lee Francis Lybarger, Esq., of Mifflinburg; A. D. Gougler and Edwin Charles of Middleburg.

The program of the week was a varied and miscellaneous one. It always had something of interest and value for everybody who cared to attend. There were musical entertainments, addresses, illustrated lectures, entertainment by a magician, a dramatic play or pageant, a vaudeville show, or a band concert. The week's program was climaxed on Saturday with the union picnic during the day and a band concert or vaudeville show in the evening. The evening programs during the week were presented either by home talent or by imported talent or both. Sometimes neighboring towns assumed the responsibility for the program, and hence the evening became known as Selinsgrove Night or Freeburg Night; at other times the evening program became known by the chief topic such as education night, grange night, or Pennsylvania German Night.

Bicycle Riding in Selinsgrove in the Nineties

The first bicycle in Selinsgrove, so far as can be known, was a home-made affair constructed by Dr. John B. Focht, and ridden by him from Gettysburg to Selinsgrove sometime in the early eighties. Wallace D. Baker was the first young man in Selinsgrove to buy a bicycle,

and he was soon followed by J. Howard Ulsh, Harvey E. Miller, and others.

These first bicycles were of the Columbia type. This kind of bicycle had a large wheel whose axle was attached to a fork of steel tubing at the head of which was fastened another piece of steel tubing called the back-bone which extended backward and downward, ending in another fork in which ran a smaller wheel. The saddle was fastened to the back-bone, and the upper end of the large fork had a handle-bar by which the machine was steered. The diameter of the wheel was governed by the length of the rider's legs, because the pedals attached to the cranks at the ends of the axle could not be farther from the saddle than the rider could reach. Obviously, a tall man could have a higher bicycle than a man of small stature.



The Old Style Bicycle in Use in the Nineties

The Columbia bicycle was followed later on by a machine of a different type. It had the small wheel in front for "safety's sake" by which the machine was steered, and this vehicle was known as the Star type. It differed from the Columbia by the manner in which the power was applied. Instead of cranks, the Star had a ratchet attached to each end of the axle to which was fastened by means of a strap, a bar bearing the pedals. Since the ratchets worked independently of each other and could be used al-

ternately or together, the rider could proceed as fast or as slowly as he wished. When the rider was using a Columbia bicycle and he encountered an obstacle in his path such as a stone or a rut concealed by dust or mud, the rider was liable to take a "header"—that is, be thrown forward over the handle-bar, sometimes with serious results. With the Star type, the large wheel did not need so great a diameter and the small wheel in front would pass over the obstacle more readily.

The third type of bicycle used in this community was known as the "Safety". This type of bicycle had wheels of equal diameter, usually from twenty-six to thirty inches in diameter. The frame roughly had the shape of a parallelogram with two acute and two obtuse angles. The wheels were fastened in the forks at the acute angles, and the saddle and cranks were at the obtuse angles which were strengthened by a tube that connected them. The power was transmitted from a large sprocket wheel, attached to the crank shaft by means of a chain which passed over a similar and smaller sprocket wheel fastened to the axle of the rear bicycle wheel. Later the makers of the "Safety" put on the market a chainless model. In this model the power was transmitted from the crank shaft to the rear wheel by a rod bearing a cog-wheel at each end. This machine was not very successful and never became popular. After a few years its manufacture was discontinued. Today's bicycle is the "Safety" with many improvements.

The rims of all wheels were of steel tube, the outside of the wheel being a groove. Into this groove was cemented a solid rubber tire. The cement of the tire sometimes became loosened and the tire jammed in the forks, causing an accident. Then came the cushion tire which was hollow, thus reducing some of the rigor to the body caused by the jolts of riding. This was followed by the pneumatic tire which was a great improvement because the softness of the cushion could be governed by the amount of the inflation. In this way riding became more comfortable.

Inquiry has frequently been made as to the kind of costume the girls and women wore in the nineties. It is sufficient to say that the skirts were long, many of them trailing the pavement. The female bicycle costume was a short skirt, the hem being midway between the ankle and the knee. This was worn usually with a short waist. Some girls wore bloomers. To compensate for this costume, the frame of the girl's wheel was modified by the removal of the top part of the parallelogram and making the lower part, from the head to the crankshaft, of two

tubes separated by about three inches, thus maintaining the rigidity of the frame. At the present time the girls still use the conventional drop-frame wheels because that is the "girl's model".

The use of the bicycle can be justified on the basis of being a means of exercise, pleasure, and business. Cycling is an excellent form of exercise because it employs all the muscles of the body which are strengthened thereby, provided that the feet are properly placed upon the pedals, and the pedals are the right distance from the saddle. A very large percentage of the bicycle riders fail to obtain the greatest physical benefit from their riding because of the improper adjustment of the saddle for height. If the saddle is too low, the heel of the shoe is placed against the pedal, whereas, the ball of the foot should be upon the pedal. That means that the saddle should be raised to such a height that when a crank is down and a pedal is in its lowest position, the leg is straight. Then all the muscles of the leg are used and the greatest benefit of the exercise is obtained. Groups of Selinsgrove youths of both sexes found great delight in riding about the town, off to Salem, Shamokin Dam, or to Bake Oven Hill, or even much greater distances. William M. Schnure states that on August 31, 1897, "Selinsgrove cyclers, numbering nearly one hundred, spent the day at Lithia Springs above Northumberland and concluded the day with a parade through the local streets". In America, the bicycle never attained the prominence as a means of locomotion in business that it held in some of the European countries. During the period of the World War II, the use of the bicycle gained considerable popularity as a means of transportation, largely on account of gasoline rationing and the cheapness of its operation.

What became known as "Century Riding" in the nineties proved exceedingly popular. A group of men would start out in the morning for a ride to some designated town, have a dinner there, and return in the afternoon. The mileage, going and coming, would add up to approximately one hundred miles. It was a common sight to see many Columbias and Stars parked in front of the Keystone Hotel (now the Governor Snyder) on a Sunday afternoon. They belonged to Century riders from clubs in Harrisburg, Williamsport, Lewistown, or some other nearby towns. William M. Schnure reports that on July 16, 1897, "fifty-two cyclers from Harrisburg, Sunbury, and Lewistown dined at the Keystone Hotel, the former making their second century run of the season". The main century riders from Selinsgrove were Wallace D. Baker, J. Howard Ulsh, and Harvey E. Miller. Selinsgrove also

had a number of bicycle racers, among them being Dr. William H. Ulsh, son of J. Howard Ulsh, and Ray Crouse. Crouse entered the races in many of the eastern cities and won many trophies.

Wallace D. Baker occupied such a prominent place in the story of the early days of the bicycle in Selinsgrove that something should be said about him. He was a son of Lorenzo D. Baker, a painter and interior decorator, and lived in the house on the north-west corner of Pine and Orange Streets, where the Miller Grocery is now located. Wallace D. Baker worked with his father for awhile until he became so interested in the promotion of cycling in town that he devoted his entire time to it. He held an agency and sold many wheels, especially after the safeties had been introduced. He used the front or the corner room as his display room, and the room back of the side porch was used as his work-shop, because those to whom he sold wheels brought them to him whenever repairs were needed. Wallace D. Baker held a triple place in the cycling world of Selinsgrove. He was a riding enthusiast, an agent, and a repair man. It may be added that Wallace D. Baker had the first automobile in town. It was a common sight to see him and his wife riding about in their "gas buggy".

Moving Picture Theatres of the County

The moving picture theatre in Selinsgrove has developed gradually. It is difficult to fix a specific date of the beginning of the moving picture form of entertainment and instruction in the town. Probably the first moving pictures in the town were shown on February 11, 1899, exhibiting scenes of the Spanish-American War for the benefit of the local fire company. On February 13, 1912, moving pictures were shown in the Masonic Temple for the benefit of the Charles Steele Science Hall. From that time moving pictures were shown at intervals, especially during the war years. These movies included "The Battle Cry of Freedom", "Civilization", and "For the Freedom of the World". In October, 1919, the work of razing an old building was begun to provide a place for a permanent moving picture theatre on North Market Street, Selinsgrove, and on August 30, 1920, the Stanley Theatre opened its doors to the general public.

There are moving picture houses at other places in the county. The Band Box Theatre on Main Street, Middleburg, was begun in 1917 and abandoned in 1948. In October, 1946, a second moving picture theatre, called the Middleburg Sky Theatre was opened in Swineford, opposite the railroad station. The Memorial Theatre now

known as the Roxy Theatre at Paxtonville, was opened in 1919. The Star Theatre in McClure opened in 1920. The Meiserville Moving Picture Theatre was opened in 1927. The Nu-Way Drive-in Theatre is located on the Susquehanna Trail about one and one-half miles north of Selinsgrove in Monroe Township. This is the first open-air theatre in this section. Melvin L. Spigelmeyer is the manager. It was opened to the public in the fall of 1948.

Musical Organizations

Practically from the beginning of its organization, Snyder County manifested considerable interest in the various types of vocal and instrumental music. Singing schools were conducted in various parts of the county, and centers of interest and skill in the art of music were developed. During the first twenty-five years certain towns like Selinsgrove, Freeburg, Middleburg, and Beaver Springs acquired a reputation as musical towns. Many of their residents achieved considerable proficiency in vocal and instrumental music, so much so that it was said there was scarcely a home in which some form of musical instrument was not played. A few of the residents achieved recognized and outstanding success in this fine art.

In the opening years of the nineteenth century, Rev. Isaac Gerhart of Freeburg and John Frederick Eyer of Selinsgrove had already achieved distinction as composers. Mr. Eyer was the author of a music book called "The Union Choral Harmony", which was later published by his son, Henry C. Eyer. In the field of band music, Prof. Joseph H. Feehrer of Selinsgrove, was at his best both as a composer and an instructor. Mr. Feehrer received distinction in state contests for his accomplishments in band music compositions. In the field of classical music, A. W. Potter, Esq., was best known. He was an able conductor of choral work and much of the success of choirs and choruses must be attributed to his untiring efforts. The town of Freeburg acquired an enviable position as a music center and enjoyed that reputation up to the opening years of the present century. The names of Frederick C. Moyer and Professor William Moyer are inseparably associated with Freeburg as a musical town. The Musical College, musical societies, and choir conventions conducted in the local community, in the county, and in Central Pennsylvania stand out as living monuments to their proficiency and achievement in music. The reputation of Middleburg and Beaver Springs as musical towns rests largely on band music. Captain John A. Ettinger, John F. Stetler, W. H. Mitchell, and Professor Palmer Mitchell have

been the recognized directors and leaders of the bands of these two towns.

As early as 1867 there were bands in Selinsgrove, Freeburg, Middleburg, Beavertown, and New Berlin. Feehrer's Band of the 208th Regiment attained great distinction during the Civil War. This band was reorganized after the war and became known as Feehrer's Silver Cornet Band of Selinsgrove. Freeburg has always been known as a band town, beginning with its noted "Brass and String Band". Middleburg had military bands during four successive periods beginning in 1849, 1855, 1856, and 1871. The band was invariably known as the Middleburg Band until 1894 when its name was changed to the "Stetler's Cornet Band" in honor of its leader. The bands of the other towns were known as the Beavertown Brass Band, and the New Berlin Band. In the eighties, bands were organized at Fremont, Adamsburg, McClure, Centreville, Kratzerville, Troxelville, and Richfield. A little later came the bands of Kreamer, Port Trevorton, and Shamokin Dam.

Choir Conventions

Choir conventions, held at different places in the county, were the outgrowth of the Snyder County Choir Association. These choir conventions were held at various places throughout the county such as Middleburg, Beavertown, and Freeburg. The county organization was composed of the different church choirs of the county. Professor William Moyer served as the president of the association and conducted the music in most of the meetings. Most of the meetings lasted a whole day and were held annually at different places in the county for many years. They were the greatest musical events of the county each summer. The first choir convention of the county was held at Beavertown, August, 1888. Members of this choir were: Caroline B. Moyer, (Mrs. Samuel Hilbish) alto; Sarah Moyer, (Mrs. J. C. Shaffer) soprano; Lydia Moyer, (Mrs. Henry Brown) soprano; Professor William Moyer, chorister; Sadie Houtz, (Mrs. William Bratton) soprano; Ella Hosterman, (Mrs. Reuben Bratton) soprano; Anne Hilbish, (Mrs. George K. Moyer) soprano; James P. Moyer, bass; William Houtz, bass; Henry Brown, bass; Phillip Moyer, tenor. The first four named were brothers and sisters.

The second annual Snyder County Choir Association met in Bower's Grove August 24, 1889. The church choirs represented were the Beavertown Lutheran and Reformed and the Freeburg Lutheran and Reformed. Addresses were made by leaders of schools and churches. The Fre-

mont and Middleburg Bands were present. The third and fourth conventions for 1890 and 1891 were also held in Bower's Grove. It was estimated that at least 2,000 people were in attendance. A picnic dinner was served in the grove. From this time on, the conventions met annually at Freeburg, either in a grove about one mile north of the town, in the auditorium of St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church, or on the grounds immediately surrounding the church building. After the eighteenth convention, held on August 19, 1905, the choir convention as a county-wide enterprise was abandoned.

Central Pennsylvania Musical Association

The first musical convention on a very comprehensive scale of which there is any record was held in Boyer's Town Hall, Freeburg, December 6, 1867. A permanent organization was effected and was designated the Central Pennsylvania Musical Association. The work of this association opened up a new era in the history of music for this portion of the state. The annual conventions were well patronized by the musicians of the different counties of Central Pennsylvania. At the annual convention in January, 1881, delegates were present from Union, Snyder, Centre, Clinton, Bradford, Pike, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Dauphin, Northumberland, Lancaster, and Philadelphia Counties. The convention of June, 1883, was known as the Central Pennsylvania Musical Jubilee and was held in Selinsgrove. It was regarded the greatest musical event ever held in Snyder County. Five hundred singers and numerous instruments of various kinds united to "swell the harmony". Musicians from Snyder County, ten adjoining counties, and from Baltimore, New York, and Boston, assembled for a week's instruction and training under the direction of the noted author and teacher, Dr. W. O. Perkins of Boston. There were present also ten brass bands to enliven the occasion. The jubilee was held in a large frame building having a seating capacity of 3,000, especially erected for the occasion, and situated on the west side of Market Street. Professor William Dill, principal of the Freeburg Academy, delivered the address of welcome. At the convention in January, 1884, a large body of choral singers and musicians from Freeburg, Sunbury, Lewistown, Danville, the Palatinate College, Reading, Lancaster, etc., were present. Professor William Moyer of Freeburg directed the choral work and Professor Gomer Thomas of Danville conducted the instrumental music. The convention usually extended over a period of three days. Usually the forenoons and afternoon were devoted to rehearsals of the choruses and quartettes.

The Men's Christian Temperance League

When the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment became imminent, a state-wide Emergency Prohibition Committee was organized with corresponding auxiliary committees in each county of the state. Snyder County had such an organization. Several successive meetings were held at the county seat to devise ways and means to deal most effectively with the developing situation. Representatives of the organization gave addresses at Parent Teacher Associations, Sunday School picnics, and other public gatherings in behalf of prohibition. Upon the repeal of prohibition, the Men's Dry League was organized at Middleburg February 24, 1934, as an auxiliary county organization of the state organization. Its objective was to combat the evils of intemperance and other social and civic evils and to promote civic righteousness throughout the county and state. Dr. George F. Dunkelberger was elected president and George P. Boyer was elected secretary-treasurer of the organization. The organization has continued to function to the present day in the nature of promoting local option elections, disseminating literature throughout the county showing the effects of alcohol upon the individual and society, conducting public meetings in behalf of the temperance cause, and in other ways promoting the civic welfare of the county. In 1942 the name of the organization was changed to the Men's Christian Temperance League.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Organized temperance promotion societies made their appearance very early in the county. Local papers report the existence of temperance organizations as early as 1879 in Adamsburg and Selinsgrove. These organizations concerned themselves largely with the enforcement of the liquor laws and in prosecuting liquor law violators. Woman's Christian Temperance Unions were in existence in the county in 1885, and by 1890 at least ten such organizations were active in the county. In 1946 there were WCTU Organizations in Beavertown, Beaver Springs, McClure, Middleburg, Mt. Pleasant Mills, and in Selinsgrove. For a period of years, a Youth Temperance Council functioned in the McClure Public Schools.

The Snyder County Historical Society

The first efforts to organize an historical society in Snyder County were undertaken in 1897 with a call for a meeting for that purpose at the county seat. Only three persons appeared. They were George W. Wagenseller, Jay G. Weiser, and William K. Miller. A second call followed about two weeks later. An organization

was effected January 1, 1898, with the election of Jay G. Weiser, Esq., president; Prof. Daniel S. Boyer, H. Harvey Schoch, G. Alfred Schoch, John I. Woodruff, and William K. Miller, vice presidents; George W. Wagenseller, corresponding secretary; H. Harris Bower, Esq., recording secretary; Ira Schoch, treasurer; and Edwin Charles, librarian. A constitution was drawn up to govern the organization and a charter of incorporation was granted by the Court of Common Pleas in February, 1898. A number of papers, pamphlets, and books came into the possession of the society. An appeal was made to the county commissioners to provide the society with the files of the county newspapers then owned by the county, and to have them bound in suitable form. For some reason the society became inactive and continued so for about fifteen years. It appears that no more meetings were held after 1898 until October 16, 1913, the anniversary day of the Penn's Creek Massacre, when a meeting was called at the request of William M. Schnure of Selinsgrove for Seibert Hall, Susquehanna University. This meeting marked the revival of the Snyder County Historical Society.

George W. Wagenseller called the meeting to order in the absence of Jay G. Weiser, who was still considered the president of the society. At this meeting Thomas Montgomery, state librarian, gave an address on "The Federation of Historical Societies and Their Activities"; the Rev. H. E. Hayden, secretary of the Wyoming Historical and Geographic Society spoke on "The Proper Method of Conducting a County Historical Society"; and William M. Schnure followed with a paper on "The Penn's Creek Massacre of 1755". The officers elected that year were Jay G. Weiser, Esq., president; William M. Schnure, secretary-treasurer. In 1914 Dr. Frank P. Manhart became president, William M. Schnure was re-elected secretary-treasurer, and Edwin Charles was chosen librarian. Dr. Manhart served as president until 1933, when he was succeeded by Dr. George E. Fisher who served until 1948 when he was succeeded by Dr. George F. Dunkelberger. William M. Schnure served as secretary-treasurer from 1913 to 1939 when he was succeeded by the Rev. Harry D. Houtz. During the years 1944 and 1945, Dewey S. Herrold served as the secretary-treasurer, and in 1946 he was succeeded by Edgar L. Swartzlander.

The next meeting of the society was held at Middleburg, January 23, 1914, to commemorate the Stump's Run Massacre of 1768. Edwin Charles read a paper on that subject. At this time the society became a member of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. At

the meeting at Beaver Springs, April 17, 1914, a great interest was manifested in the papers that were presented before the society. On August 8, 1914, the meeting of the society was held at Rowe's Church in Salem, and commemorated the one hundreth anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of the second building. On November 5, 1914, the meeting was held again in Seibert Hall, Susquehanna University, and three papers were presented before the society. At the meeting January 29, 1915, at Middleburg, consideration was given to the preservation of the Block House at Kreamer. A request was made of the county commissioners to provide a suitable room in the Court House for the preservation of newspapers, pamphlets, books, records, and relics of the society. At the meeting in Port Trevorton, August 20, 1915, a number of valuable papers were read pertaining to the history of Port Trevorton and vicinity. Undoubtedly the most notable achievement of the Snyder County Historical Society at the time was the celebration of the Penn's Creek Massacre, October 14-16, 1915.

World War I now began to interfere with the work of the society. The number of meetings per year was reduced to one. Up to this time, the meetings had been held quarterly at various places in the county such as Selinsgrove, Salem, Port Trevorton, Middleburg, and Beaver Springs. At the meeting of the society in May, 1918, Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh was present at the unveiling of a tablet on the Governor Simon Snyder mansion on North Market Street in Selinsgrove. At the meeting of the society in February, 1919, the Snyder County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Association offered to transfer the Memorial Building in Middleburg to the Snyder County Historical Society, but nothing tangible resulted from the offer. Meetings were held at intervals up to 1939 when they began to be held monthly, except during the summer months, in the homes of the members of the society. Usually two papers have been read at each meeting. The society has bound in one volume all the bulletins published since 1913. The papers read before the society are in the library and may be consulted at any time by persons interested, whether they are members of the society or not.

In 1939 the Snyder County Historical Society undertook the preparation of a history of the county, called "The Story of Snyder County". This was a much-needed undertaking. The project called for greater activity on the part of the membership to supply the needed historical data. Many members participated in the research work and their data which were collected in the form of

papers were read before the society at its monthly meetings. Much of the information contained in this history has been gleaned from these papers. Had it not been for the devoted interest and the sacrificial labors of these members, much of the knowledge of our local history, the customs and traditions of the native population, and the hard struggle of the people to leave behind a noble culture would have been forever lost to the oncoming generations.

The Beavertown Mutual Fire Insurance Company

There was considerable agitation over a period of years for the organization of a good local fire insurance company for the county. Leading men of the county felt there was a need for such a company and that the necessary action should be taken at once. The opinion prevailed that the thousands of dollars that were annually sent out of the county would better be kept in the county. After about a decade of discussion and agitation, a company was organized. On Monday, July 21, 1879, a number of men met in the Odd Fellows Hall in Beavertown for the purpose of organizing a fire insurance company to be known as the Beavertown Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

The territory of the company originally consisted only of Beaver, West Beaver, Adams, and Franklin Townships. Immediately steps were taken to obtain a charter. W. N. Heimbach was chosen the company's agent to secure \$200,000 insurance, the amount of insurance required to secure a charter. On November 14, 1879, the charter was received and the company was incorporated. The charter gave the company the privilege to insure in any county of the state. During the first few months after the incorporation, the insurance, however, was restricted to the four townships, but later it was extended over the entire county.

An important question to be decided by the board of directors was the kinds of property to be insured. It appeared at first that wherever a steam engine was used, the company was reluctant to take the risk. As a precautionary measure, in such cases, the insurance was only in force when the engine was cold. As soon as there was fire in the engine, the insurance was cancelled until three hours after the fire had been extinguished. Since it was a mutual company, the first assessment November 24, 1886, was laid to the amount of \$1,634.21. That the company carried on insurance on a rather large scale is indicated by the fact that in December, 1885, the amount of insurance in force was \$1,621,102.

Samuel A. Wetzel, associate judge of the county and a native of Beaver Township, was elected president of the company, and A. H. Bowersox was elected secretary. The first board of directors consisted of fourteen members, and they were all chosen from Beavertown and vicinity, but when it was decided to insure property anywhere in the county, it was decided to have the number reduced to ten persons who would be chosen from different parts of the county. This was to be done gradually as vacancies were created either by resignation or death. The directors were to be elected for a term of three years and were subject to re-election. The presidents and secretaries since the organization of the company in 1879 have been:

Presidents:

Samuel A. Wetzel, Beaver Township,	(1879-1918)
John Kauffman, Franklin Township,	(1918-1919)
Peter F. Rigel, Beaver Township,	(1919-1937)
J. Lee Moyer, Washington Township,	(1937—)

Secretaries:

A. H. Bowersox, Beavertown,	(1879-1924)
John A. Wetzel, Beavertown,	(1924-1941)
Mrs. John A. Wetzel, Beavertown,	(1941-1942)
Edwin Freed, Beavertown,	(1942—)

The agents for the company in the order of service since the organization of the company, have been W. N. Heimbach, David Wetzel, Harry H. Wetzel, and Henry A. Bowersox. The agents at the present time are Mary Bowersox, N. H. Rigel, and Percy Miller. The company at the present time has over 2,000 policyholders. The total amount of insurance in force, December, 1947, was \$6,492,529. The insurance is mostly in Snyder, Union, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, and Northumberland Counties.

The Selinsgrove State Colony for Epileptics

The Selinsgrove State Colony for Epileptics was originally established under the name of the "Eastern Pennsylvania State Hospital for the Insane", by an Act of Assembly July 25, 1917. This act appropriated money and provided for the appointment of a commission to select a site, purchase lands, and erect the necessary buildings. Six tracts of land comprising nearly four hundred acres, consisting of the farms of L. A. Ulsh, J. F. Good, Lincoln Luck, Lillian May Schoch, Charles E. Spade, and the Monroe Mills property of Dr. Percival J. Herman and Prof. Charles W. Herman were acquired (1918-1919) as the site for the institution. During the summer and fall of 1929, additional land purchases of eighteen tracts were made that increased the acreage to 1,344 acres. These farms were purchased from G. E. Fisher, F. E. Pontius, H. F. Musser, J. C. Klingler, J. B.

Fasold, P. E. Swope, J. G. Ott, C. A. Wochley, and H. I. Romig. These farms were operated by tenant farmers from the beginning of the institution to 1929 when the institution took over their operation and made various improvements in the farm properties. In 1923 the institution was designated the Selinsgrove State Colony for Epileptics.

The light and power for the colony was furnished by a public utility until 1939 when the present power plant was put into operation. The public utility, however, continued to provide the current for an emergency lighting system. In the year 1930 the barns on the Ulsh, Luck, and Schoch farms were destroyed by fire and for practical reasons were never rebuilt. The present Administration Building stands on the site of the Luck farm house.

A board of trustees, appointed by Governor Fisher, assumed the management of the Colony in 1927, and an appropriation of \$300,000 was made for the construction and equipment of additional buildings for the patients. Three cottages, A, B, and C, were completed in 1929. Each cottage was built to house forty patients. Cottage D was constructed in 1930 and 1931, and housed 212 patients. Other construction work had to be carried on besides the erection of buildings. Roads had to be constructed and crops had to be raised to provide food for the live stock and for the population of the Colony. Water lines had to be laid to the farm residences, and buildings had to be remodelled to suit new conditions. The sewage line was constructed to connect with the Selinsgrove Borough system. Lawns were made and shrubbery and trees were planted. The water for the Colony was at first supplied from a deep well operated by a turbine pump. No other source of water existed on the colony grounds until a more extensive water system could be installed, and a stand pipe and reservoir could be constructed.

The first patient was admitted August 16, 1929. The normal capacity of the colony of 120 patients was reached within twelve weeks after the opening date, and shortly thereafter its maximum capacity of 150 patients was reached. The first patients came directly from their homes. A little later epileptic patients from mental hospitals were transferred to the Colony. At first only adult male patients, suitable for some kind of work, were admitted. By 1931 the patient population had increased to about 350, and the number of cottage buildings to four. By 1939 the institution took care of 444 patients. In the fall of 1937, an extensive building program was inaugurated by the Pennsylvania State Authority with funds provided by the Federal Public Works Administration which resulted

in the construction of the power house for the generation of light, heat, and power; the Service Building for store-room and laundry; the Recreation Building for indoor sports, parties, sound pictures, dances, and religious services; the hospital and Admission Building with operating rooms, dental rooms, X-ray, laboratory, drug room, and therapy rooms; Women's and Children's Buildings (E-Group) with schoolrooms and sewing rooms; the central kitchen and dining rooms; the Farm Colony Building; the Security Building; and the Administration Building. Additional heat and power lines were built and the water and sewage disposal systems were extended.

Selinsgrove Carnival and Night Fair

The First Carnival and Night Fair under the auspices of the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Fire Company of Selinsgrove was held during the second week of August, 1933, at the Zimmerman Airport on the Isle of Que. The program consisted largely of band concerts, parades of fire companies from Central Pennsylvania, addresses by speakers of prominence, and the usual numerous and diversified ways and means of entertaining the people. The outstanding feature of this first carnival was the novel exhibition of stunt flying and parachute jumping. This fair marked the beginning of a week's program of entertainment and amusement, held annually ever since during the third week of July, which has claimed regularly the attendance of increasing thousands of people. From 1934 to 1937 the carnival and night fair was held in the William M. Schnure Field between Mill and Spruce Streets; from 1938 to 1941 it was held in the John C. Snyder Field north of West Mill Street; and since 1942 it has been held on the Henry E. Davis Farm south of Selinsgrove, along the old road from the Susquehanna Trail to Freeburg. This farm was purchased by the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Fire Company in the fall of 1941 as a permanent home for the carnival and night fair. The fair grounds contain a one-half mile, oval-shaped dirt track for automobile races. The official name of the organization for the ownership and operation of the carnival and night fair is "The Selinsgrove Fair, Inc.," as of October, 1947. Roland E. Fisher has served as the general chairman of the committee on organization and management of the carnival and night fair since its beginning.

CHAPTER 29

The Role of Snyder County in the Nation's Wars

Although a soldier by profession, I have never felt any sort of fondness for war, and I have never advocated it except as a means of Peace.

Grant

The Revolutionary War

During the period of the American Revolution, the central portion of Pennsylvania consisted of the territory then known as Northumberland and Cumberland counties. Northumberland County at that time comprised the territory now made up of the present counties of Northumberland, Union, Snyder, Columbia, Montour, Center, Lycoming, Sullivan, and Clinton; Cumberland County at that time comprised the territory now made up of the present counties of Cumberland, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Blair. This entire area was rather sparsely populated and was harassed at intervals by Indian attacks. It was, therefore, not in a position to furnish many men for the Continental Army. The men generally were needed at home to make a living for themselves and their families, and to protect their homes from the Indians.

The inhabitants, however, were active in their opposition to England in defense of their rights as Americans. At a meeting of delegates from this central area at Carlisle, July 12, 1774, the course of England in her treatment of the colonists was condemned. The delegates placed themselves on record as being opposed to any trade relations with England until a fair treatment would be accorded them, and they resolved to keep in constant communication with the other colonies with respect to the trend of affairs. The settlers of this central area had a keen sense of justice, possessed a liberty-loving spirit, and were willing to make almost any sacrifice to attain and to maintain their rights.

The Revolutionary period of Snyder County is a part of the history of Northumberland County. Of the six companies to be formed in Pennsylvania, according to the resolutions of the Continental Congress, June 14, 1775, one company was recruited in Northumberland County in June, 1775, with John Lowden, a farmer residing near the present town of Mifflnburg, as the captain. The company was sent to Washington's army where it rendered valuable service during the siege of Boston. When the British evacuated Boston, Lowden's company was sent to New York by Washington and was stationed on Long Island to prevent the British from getting a foothold there. It remained there until June 30, 1776, when it was mustered out of service. Many of the men, however,

re-enlisted for a period of three years or for the duration of the war in a company commanded by Captain James Parr. In the meantime, a company of men from Northumberland County was organized and placed under the command of Captain Casper Weitzel, a lawyer from Sunbury. This company belonged to the First Battalion of the Pennsylvania Regiment of Riflemen, commanded by Colonel Samuel Miles, and was stationed near King's Bridge, New York. It took part in the Battle of Long Island and sustained a loss of twenty men: one killed, three officers and sixteen privates taken prisoners. Later on, the regiment participated in the Trenton-Princeton campaign of 1776-1777.

Sergeant Thomas Price

Among the prisoners taken by the British at the Battle of Long Island was Sergeant Thomas Price of Penn Township, now Snyder County. He was taken as a prisoner of war to Halifax, Nova Scotia. In some way he managed to escape. He fled through the wilderness around the Bay of Fundy, succeeded in reaching the White Mountains, and ultimately reached his home. The lure of military life induced him to enter the army again to serve at least the period of his enlistment. Upon the close of the war, he enlisted as a member of the second regiment of the Northumberland County Militia. These militia were organized into five battalions, two of them being made up of men from Penn Township in command of Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Evans, with Price serving as a major, and Simon Snyder, later governor, as captain of the fifth company. Later Price was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the Second Regiment. Thomas Price evidently must have had many discouraging experiences in his army career. He probably never received his just dues. In a letter written to the Honorable Samuel Maclay, member of Congress from Philadelphia, dated December 4, 1798, Penn Township, Northumberland County, he complained that he had been elected colonel three times, and still had never been commissioned because he was considered too poor for such a position. The following is an excerpt from the letter:

I settled in these parts before the war, and have resided here ever since, except while in the army. I enlisted in Captain Weitzel's company, and was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Long Island. I underwent many hardships, but at last found means to escape, returned to the army, and served my time out, and was honorably discharged, and never received any pay. Soon after my return home I was elected adjutant, and continued in that post many years. Afterwards was elected major.*

*Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley. (Page 119)

As a result of this treatment and neglect, it appears that he lost his ardent spirit in his declining years, became indifferent and out of sorts with the world, and lived an indigent and shiftless life. He spent these latter years in a log house on Water Street, Selinsgrove. Nothing seems to be known of the time and nature of his death and place of burial.

In August, 1776, a company of men was recruited from territory now practically comprising Union and Snyder Counties with Captain John Clarke in command. Captain Clarke lived on a farm near the present site of the town of Mifflinburg. This company rendered service subsequent to the Trenton-Princeton campaigns. The Twelfth Pennsylvania Regiment, of which four companies were from Northumberland County, was commanded by Colonel William Cook of Northumberland. This regiment took part in the campaign against Burgoyne in his invasion of New York, the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and then went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. Captain Anthony Selin, the founder of Selinsgrove, was in command of a company recruited in 1777, and he continued in service until 1780. Captain Benjamin Weiser, a native of Womelsdorf and a son of the interpreter, commanded a company in the campaigns of 1776 and 1777 and was stationed in Philadelphia. At the close of the war, he resided in Selinsgrove.

Attacks on Settlers by British and Indians

Not all of the able-bodied men from Central Pennsylvania were engaged directly in the war with England. Many men served in the campaigns against the British and their Indian allies that constantly threatened the frontier settlements. In fact, the dangers of attack became so great that whole communities protested against so many of their men being called into the Continental Army, with so few left for the protection of the home front. In response to these protests, regular army officers and troops were sent home from the army for the purpose of protecting the settlers of the North Branch, the West Branch, and of Penn's Valley from Indian atrocities. Despite the forts or stockade that were built all along the northern frontiers, the Indians invaded this territory, murdering men, women, and children, and burning the settlements. The horrible Wyoming Valley Massacre, July 3, 1778, had such a terrifying effect upon the people in these areas that a general exodus of the settlers followed. Fearful of their lives, they fled panic-stricken southward to Fort Augusta, Sunbury and to places beyond. It is said that at one time the larger portion of the residents

of Buffalo Valley had taken flight to places of greater safety.

So many people were murdered and so many settlements were plundered and laid waste that for a while it appeared that the Indians might succeed in exterminating the settlements all along the northern frontiers. An important outpost called Fort Freeland on Warrior's Run fell into the hands of the British and Indians July 28, 1779, after a siege of seven days. The fort was burned to the ground, and the garrison was either killed or taken prisoner. Murderous attacks were made upon the settlers on White Deer Creek, at the mouth of Buffalo Creek, and upon French Jacob's Mills in Buffalo Valley. Finally the regular troops with the assistance of the militia succeeded in putting the Indians to flight northward. In the struggle many brave officers and men lost their lives. Major John Kelley of Buffalo Valley, who had distinguished himself at the Battle of Princeton by obstructing Cornwallis' pursuit of Washington's army by destroying an important bridge in the line of his march, was killed by Indian scouts near Muncy April 11, 1779; Captain John Brady was killed by the Indians near the mouth of Muncy Creek April 11, 1779; Captain Hawkins Boone and Lieutenant Samuel Daugherty were killed at Fort Freeland; and James Brady, son of Captain John Brady, was killed above Loyalsock August 8, 1778.

Lieut. Colonel Peter Hosterman

Participating in this border warfare with the Indians was Lieutenant Colonel Peter Hosterman, a prominent resident of Penn Township. He was born in Lancaster County in 1746 and settled in Penn Township prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. The many positions he held show that he was an active and useful resident of the community. Hosterman was a member of the board of viewers of roads between Sunbury and the Mahantango Creek and between Salem and New Berlin. He served as the tax assessor of the township, a member of the board of viewers in the formation of Beaver Dam Township in 1787, a county commissioner for two successive terms, justice of the peace, and aided in the erection of the First Lutheran Church of Selinsgrove. He was also a large landowner in the territory now known as Snyder County.

Colonel Hosterman was no less active in the military service of his country during the Revolutionary War and thereafter. In 1777, he served as a private in the company commanded by Captain Benjamin Weiser. In 1777-1778 he was commissioned a lieutenant-colonel of the

Northumberland County militia, and became engaged in warfare against the Indians. In May, 1778, his troops were attacked by the Indians near Lycoming Creek of the West Branch while they were escorting some settlers in that region. In June, 1778, he led an expedition against the Indians who had attacked the settlers residing between Loyalsock and Lycoming Creeks. In July, 1780, his command was attacked by the Indians in Buffalo Valley with a considerable loss. In August, 1780, he was stationed at Fort Augusta to aid in the defense of the settlers against threatened attacks by the Indians. Upon the close of the American Revolution, he served as an officer of the county militia up to about 1790. He died in Selinsgrove in 1805, and is buried in the Old Lutheran Cemetery, located immediately west of the First Lutheran Church.

Note: For a list of the Revolutionary War soldiers of the Snyder County area, compiled by Dr. George S. Moyer and Charles F. Snyder, consult the Snyder County Historical Society Publication, Bulletin One (12-46), Volume II. For a list of the Revolutionary Soldiers of Snyder and Union Counties, consult Wagenseller's Snyder County Annals, Volume I. (15-30).

The War of 1812

After years of provocation resulting from the impressment of seamen, the destruction of commerce, and Indian atrocities incited by British agents, war was formally declared by Congress against England June 18, 1812. This second war with England was anticipated by Governor Simon Snyder, often referred to as Pennsylvania's great war governor, since on May 12, 1812, he ordered that Pennsylvania should fill the quota of 14,000 troops asked by Congress. The state responded magnificently by offering three times as many men as were called for. While Pennsylvania was never invaded by enemy troops, her borders were threatened several times. Northumberland County (comprising Union and Snyder) sent a company of over 300 enlisted men September 7, 1812, with orders to proceed to Meadville, Pennsylvania, and from there to the Canadian border to participate in the Niagara Campaign during the summer and autumn of 1812. Two companies of militia from Northumberland County, the one commanded by Captain John Donaldson and the other by Captain Ner Middleswarth, took part in the campaign. These men were in service from September 25 to November 24, 1812, and came for the most part from what are now known as Union and Snyder Counties. This short enlistment period resulted from the unfavorable attitudes the militia held toward the general command.

During 1813 there was a general lack of interest in the war and few enlistments took place.

In 1814 two full companies from Union County were sent to General Thomas Cadwalader in command of Camp Dupont on the Delaware to prevent the British from getting a foothold on the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. These companies were under the command of Captain Ner Middleswarth with Isaac Mertz and John Aurand as the lieutenants, and Captain John Snyder, the son of the governor, with Jacob Rhoads as first lieutenant and Anthony C. Selin, son of the founder of Selinsgrove as second lieutenant. Middleswarth's company was known as the Eighth Union Rifle Volunteers, and Snyder's company was called the Selinsgrove Rifle Volunteers. It is said that Snyder's company marched from Selinsgrove to Harrisburg, halted in front of the Executive Mansion during the night, aroused the governor from his sleep, and offered the services of the company for the defense of the State and Nation. The governor accepted the proffered services of the company.

In the fall of 1814 five companies were recruited in Northumberland and Old Union Counties and were stationed at Marcus Hook, below Chester, to aid General Cadwalader in opposing any attempts on the part of the British to gain possession of that area. These companies were commanded by Captains Henry Miller, Valentine Haas, Jacob Hummel, John Bergstresser, and William F. Byer and made up the Seventy-Seventh Regiment of the Pennsylvania militia under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George Weirick of the First Brigade, Second Division. These troops were kept in this section practically all the time until the close of the war.

Captain Frederick Evans

Captain Frederick Evans was a very prominent man in his day because of his services as a surveyor and soldier. He was born near the town of Trappe, Montgomery County, in the year 1765. He became a settler in Penn Township in what is now known as Snyder County, probably about the year 1790. He was commissioned June 1, 1792, a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Second Battalion of the militia of Northumberland County. The battalion was made up of men from Penn Township, with Thomas Price, a Revolutionary War soldier then living in Selinsgrove, as the major; and Simon Snyder, later governor, as the captain of the Fifth Company of this battalion. Evans was the official surveyor of Northumberland County for many years. He made the survey of Swinefordtown, now known as Middleburg, in the year 1800. He served as a member of the board of viewers of roads leading from Selinsgrove

to Freeburg and from Salem to New Berlin. He lived in Selinsgrove from 1800 to 1806 and then moved to Derrstown, now Lewisburg, where he became the warm friend of George Kremer and Daniel Double. In August 1807, he took a prominent part in a war meeting at Sunbury as a member of the Committee on Resolutions. The following year he was a delegate from Penn Township to the Democratic-Republican Convention held at Sunbury. He was a member of the State Legislature from Northumberland County in 1810 and 1811.

Captain Frederick Evans served in the War of 1812 as a commissioned Captain of the Second Regiment of Artillery of the United States Army. He assisted in the building of Fort McHenry, one of the defenses of Baltimore. When this fort was attacked by the same force and fleet that had captured Washington on the night of September 13, 1814, Captain Evans was one of its most determined defenders. The British fleet made a very heavy attack, and the fort replied with equal vigor. Great havoc was wrought upon the fort, but its defenses held. A rather vivid description has been handed down by Captain Evans of the tragic conditions within the fort itself, resulting from the terrific bombardment. Many of the men were killed, wounded, or blown to bits. "Three bomb-shells struck and exploded inside the fort. One man showed signs of great fear, and asked to sit under the cannon for protection and was given permission. Soon a shell struck that spot killing him instantly. Another man was killed only three feet away from Evans; a woman carrying water was hit by a shell and blown to pieces; a fourth shell from the British fleet labeled 'a present from the King of England' landed unexploded within the fort." *It was during this bombardment that Francis Scott Key, a prisoner of war on the attacking ships, wrote our national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner.

At the close of the war, Captain Evans brought this unexploded shell back home, removed its explosive contents, and kept it as a relic of the war. The shell was one foot in diameter with walls one and one-half inches thick, had a cavity of nine inches, and weighed 194 pounds. The shell was transported in a row-boat up the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers to Thompson's Landing, now Thompsettown, Juniata County, and from there was removed by wagon-team to Delaware Township, Juniata County, where it could be seen for many years at the saw-mill of Lewis Evans, who had served in the war with his illustrious brother.

Captain Evans' only daughter, Catherine, was mar-

*History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys — Vol.2, Chapter 17.

ried in 1811 to George Kremer, later a member of Congress from his district (1823-1829). In the latter years of his life, Captain Evans lived with his son-in-law near Middleburg along the public road leading to Fremont. He died December 4, 1844, at the age of seventy-nine years. He was buried first in the family burial plot, located across the public road from the old homestead, but later the remains with those of his wife, and those of the Honorable George Kremer and his wife, were removed to the Union Cemetery, Middleburg, now known as the Glendale Cemetery. The Kremer home was later owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin E. Bower, direct descendants of Evans and Kremer, and then by Mrs. Catherine Bower. Today the home is the property of A. J. Sharadin.

Note: For a list of the soldiers that participated in the War of 1812, see "Veterans of the War of 1812", compiled by the Grave Registration Committee in 1935. Dr. George S. Moyer, supervisor.

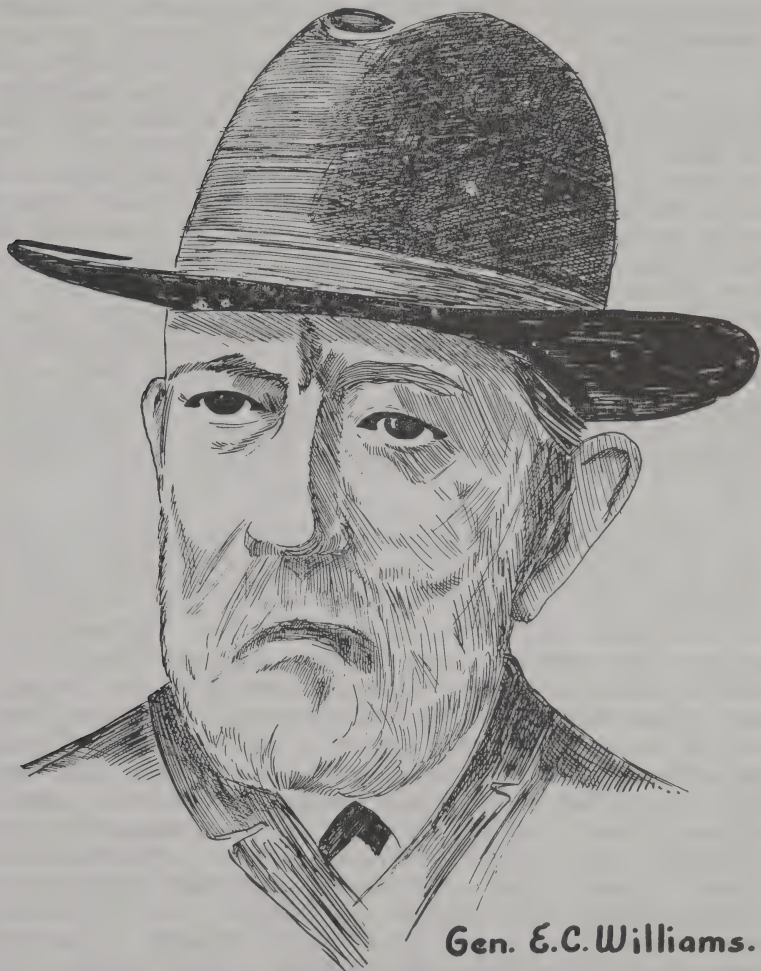
The Mexican War

Union County, then comprising the territory now known as Snyder County, was not extensively connected with the Mexican War since the records show the names of only a few soldiers from this county. No separate military organization as such was provided by the counties. Linn* gives a list of sixteen men from Union County who served in the Mexican War. Their addresses are given as Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, Hartleton, Selinsgrove, or are not mentioned at all. Jacob App is the only one mentioned by Linn coming from the territory now known as Snyder County. He was a member of Company C, Second Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. App died at San Francisco, California, October, 1849, at the age of twenty-four years. He was a son of Leonard App and a nephew of John App, a benefactor of Missionary Institute. Both Leonard App and John App were the sons of Matthias App who settled in what is now known as Snyder County about 1790. Leonard App was the owner of what was once known as Schoch's Mill on Penn's Creek above Selinsgrove.

The Pennsylvania Military organization that saw service in the Mexican War and came from territory in proximity to Union County were the Juniata Guards of Lewistown, the Washington Guards of McVeytown, and the Cameron Guards of Harrisburg. The men from Union County were principally in Companies C and M of the Second Regiment, and Company I of the First Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. The Juniata and Washington Guards left by canal boats for Pittsburgh, March

*Annals of Buffalo Valley

25, 1847, and then proceeded by boats down the Ohio River to New Orleans, and thence to the Rio Grande River, and from there they joined General Scott's Army at Jalapa on its march to Mexico City. The Cameron Guards were commanded by Captain Edward C. Williams. The company, consisting of 117 men, traveled by railroad from Harrisburg to Chambersburg, and then marched overland



Gen. E.C. Williams.

150 miles to Pittsburgh where it was mustered into the services of the United States. From there it embarked on a steamer for New Orleans and Vera Cruz. On April 8, 1847, the company joined Scott's Army on the march to Mexico City.

General Edward C. Williams

Since Captain Williams was a resident of Snyder

County for about thirty years, an account of his life and the achievements of his command in the Mexican Campaign will be very much in order. Captain Williams was born in Philadelphia, February 10, 1812. He was educated in the public schools of his native city which were then operating on the Bell-Lancastrian System. He learned the book-binding trade and established himself at Harrisburg under the firm name of Clyde and Williams, Bookbinders and Stationers. When war was declared against Mexico, May 13, 1846, President Polk called for 50,000 volunteers and Congress appropriated \$10,000,000 for the prosecution of the war. It is said that 300,000 men offered their services to the government. At the time Captain Williams raised a company of volunteers known as the Cameron Guards and offered their services to the government. It became known as Company G, Second Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment. The men from these Pennsylvania Units aided in the defeat of General Santa Anna at the village of Plain del Rio near the mountain pass of Cerro Gordo, and then proceeded to Jalapa and Pueblo, reaching the latter place May 15, 1847. By August, Scott's Army of 10,000 men was in sight of the City of Mexico. These units participated in the battles of Contreras, Cherubusco, Molino del Rey, and Chapultepec.

All along this line of march the Cameron Guards were in the forefront of the fighting. The citadel of Chapultepec in the City of Mexico was first bombarded and was then taken by storm. Captain Williams and Captain Montgomery raised the first flag over the citadel. Various references claim that this flag was the original Betsy Ross flag, made in Philadelphia, and which was used by Washington at Trenton. In the assault upon Chapultepec, the Cameron Guards lost eighteen men, who were either killed or wounded. Captain Williams himself received a wound in the shoulder. He continued in the campaign until the surrender of Mexico. The Cameron Guards returned home with only thirty-two men out of 117, sustaining a loss of 72.7 per cent. The volunteers, for the most part, were privileged to return home, but the regular army men were retained to occupy the territory that had been acquired and to man garrisons along the Rio Grande River. The Cameron Guards returned to Harrisburg in July, 1848, and were given a great ovation by the citizens. For gallant and meritorious services in the war, Captain Williams was promoted to the rank of brigadier-general. His distinguished services in Scott's Campaign made a popular hero out of General Williams. In 1850 he was a candidate on an Independent ticket for

the office of sheriff of Dauphin County and was elected by a large majority.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, General Williams was mustered into the services of the United States and served for three months under General Patterson in the Shenandoah Valley. He was instrumental in recruiting twenty-four companies of cavalry. He was given the command of the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, 92nd. Regiment, made up of twelve companies, composed of men from the counties of Blair, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, Susquehanna, and Wayne, and of the city of Philadelphia. The regiment served under General Buell in command of the Department of the Cumberland, in movements against the Confederates in Kentucky and Tennessee. Commenting on these movements, General Buell stated in his general orders that:

The Ninth Cavalry behaved most bravely, being at one time compelled to stand for three-quarters of an hour under the concentrated fire of three batteries of the enemy's artillery, and only retiring when ordered to do so.

The Ninth Cavalry participated in forty-one engagements and in numerous skirmishes, fired the last shots of the war in General Sherman's Army, and furnished the cavalry escort for Sherman on the occasion of General Johnston's surrender. Seventy-two members of the regiment had been killed in action, 116 died of disease, 147 were wounded, and ninety-nine were taken prisoners of war.

Soon afterwards, Williams resigned his command because of certain grievances with respect to his rank as a commissioned officer. He returned to his home in Harrisburg, and practically terminated his services in the Civil War. While a resident of Harrisburg he served as a commissioner charged with the responsibility of erecting a monument in Capitol Park to the memory of the soldiers who served in the Mexican War. He was also instrumental in erecting a monument to the soldiers of the Civil War. In 1871, he moved to Chapman, Union Township, Snyder County, and conducted a general store at that place. Much of his business was concerned with the handling of groceries and all kinds of general merchandise. In 1872 he was appointed postmaster at Chapman which position he held continuously until his death. It was said at the time that General Williams was the oldest postmaster in Snyder County in point of service. Although not a native son of Snyder County, he was a resident of the county during the last thirty years of his life and as such deserves a place of honor and esteem

in the history of his adopted county. Those people who knew him personally still remember him affectionately as "General Williams of Chapman". He died in his home at Chapman, February 18, 1900, and was buried in the cemetery of St. John's United Brethren Church, along the Susquehanna Trail.

The Civil War

The long-standing economic and political differences between the people of the northern and southern states finally emerged into open rebellion, and civil war became the inevitable. Seven of the southern states had already seceded from the Union by April, 1861, and four more were to follow. The doctrine of States' Rights and slavery no longer made it possible for all of the states to dwell together in peace under the same flag. Either the Union must be dissolved, or those who loved the Union must fight to save it. Civil War in America began with the attack of the Confederates at Charleston upon Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861.

On the day following the fall of Fort Sumter, April 15, 1861, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers for three months' service for the suppression of the rebellion, since few people believed the war would last any longer. Three hundred thousand men responded to the call. Among them were six men from Snyder County. These men were: Adam S. Houtz, Benjamin F. Houseworth, Emanuel Sassaman, Michael Smith, Charles H. Snively, and Henry Snyder. They belonged to Company G, Fourth Regiment Volunteers, recruited at Lewisburg, and were mustered into service April 20, 1861. Immediately following the president's call, Governor Andrew G. Curtin called the Pennsylvania Legislature into extra session for the purpose of placing the state on a war-footing. The Reserve Corps of 15,000 men was organized to be kept within the state for its own immediate protection. These men were enlisted for a period of three years, or for the duration of the war, with the likelihood of being mustered into the service of the government. With the appeal for volunteers, recruiting stations sprung up all over the state. War meetings were held in Selinsgrove, Middleburg, Freeburg, and in other towns of the county. At the meeting in Selinsgrove, the first two men to enlist were Levi Epler and Henry Harding of Perry Township. Both of the men were veterans of the War with Mexico. They were mustered into service May 6, 1861, for a period of three years. Both men belonged to Company B of the 35th. regiment of the Sixth Pennsylvania Reserves. Levi Epler was promoted to a captaincy, March 1, 1863, was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness, and was

mustered out of service June 11, 1864; William Harding was promoted to a First Lieutenancy, May 5, 1863, and was mustered out of service June 11, 1864.

President Lincoln's second call for troops was issued in July, 1862, for 300,000 more men for a period of nine months. The Snyder County Commissioners agreed to pay a bounty of fifty dollars to each volunteer soldier of the county regularly mustered into the army under the proclamation of the president and the governor, as an incentive to raise the pro rata quota of one company for the county of the 300,000 men called for. One-half of this amount was to be paid when the volunteer was mustered into service and the balance was to be paid within sixty days. Additional provision was also made for the care of the families of such who might be induced to enlist during their period of service. This action was taken by the County Commissioners very largely in response to the attitude expressed by the citizens of the county at a mass meeting in the courthouse, July 28, 1862. Snyder County can feel justly proud of the record of her soldiers in the war between the states. There were few battles fought between the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia between 1861 and 1865 in which Snyder County men did not participate. So far as is known, no Snyder County men participated in the First Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. What few men had enlisted by that time were in General Robert Patterson's Division, stationed in the vicinity of Winchester, Virginia, keeping watch on any Confederate Movement in the lower portion of the Shenandoah Valley.

Military Units of Snyder County Men

In discussing the Civil War, our primary interest centers in those units that were made up, at least in part, of men from Snyder County. These units in the main were the 35th, the 47th, the 49th, the 51st, the 52nd, the 56th, the 74th, the 76th, the 78th, the 92nd, the 112th, the 131st, the 141st, 147th, the 152nd, the 161st, the 172nd, the 173rd, the 182nd, the 184th, and the 208th Regiments. These regiments constitute an almost complete list of all of the military units composed of Snyder County men in the Civil War. It has to be remembered that in forming military organizations there wasn't much of an attempt to respect political boundary lines. In fact, the tendencies among the military are to avoid just that as much as possible. Even though a unit originally was composed of men from the same area, as the unit became depleted in battle, replacements and consolidations followed, so that in course of time all semblance to the original unit became lost. This makes well-nigh impossible the compiling of

an absolutely complete and accurate list of regiments, batteries, and other military organizations made up of men from a definitely prescribed territorial area. In addition to these regiments, Snyder County furnished men for the regular army and also for the militia that were called out in times of great danger such as Lee's Invasion of the North in 1862 and 1863. A brief history of these regiments now follows in their respective order.

The 35TH REGIMENT or the Sixth Pennsylvania Reserve had only one company of men from Snyder County for three years' enlistment or for the duration of the war. This company, known as Company B, was under the command of Captain Charles D. Roush of New Berlin, Pennsylvania. Levi Epler and William Harding of Perry Township were first and second lieutenants respectively. Out of the 115 men of the company, fifty-four were from Snyder County. The company left Selinsgrove June 5, 1861, on canal boats, after having been escorted through the streets by the local band and drum corps under the leadership of Joseph Feehrer. Since this was the first company to leave Snyder County for the front, a great ovation was naturally given these men. The regiment was formed at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, early in 1861, with Colonel W. W. Ricketts in command. The regiment participated in the Battle of Dranesville, December 20, 1861, which proved to be the first victory for the Army of the Potomac, and then encamped for about six weeks on the banks of the Rappahannock River. It was attached to the Army of the Potomac under the command of General McClellan and participated in the peninsular campaign whose avowed purpose was the capture of the Confederate Capital. After a series of battles, nothing decisive was accomplished, and McClellan and his army were recalled to the neighborhood of Washington.

COMPANY B OF THE 35TH REGIMENT distinguished itself in the battles of Gaines' Mill and Gainesville of the Peninsular Campaign. Following this campaign, the regiment participated in the battles of Groveton, the Second Battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, and in the bloody conflict of Antietam in which Lee was defeated and compelled to retreat. Then the company took part in the battles of Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, New Hope Church, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Courthouse, Cold Harbor, and finally the Battle of Bethesda Church. This last battle terminated the military services of these men since their three-year service had expired. The company was mustered out of service at Harrisburg, July, 1864.

THE 47TH REGIMENT, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was composed of men from Union, Snyder, Juniata, and Perry Counties. Company C was composed of seven Snyder County men. It was commanded by Captain John P. S. Gobin, a lawyer of Sunbury, and later Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania (1898-1902). The regiment was recruited August, 1861, and was organized at Camp Curtin. It participated in the Red River expedition under General Banks, fighting the Battle of Sabine Cross Roads, Louisiana, April 8, 1862. Later it was attached to General Sheridan's Army in the Shenandoah Valley. It took part in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. It participated in the Grand Review in Washington, May 23-24, 1865. It was mustered out of service January 9, 1866, at Camp Cadwalader, Philadelphia, after nearly four and one-half years of army service.

THE 49TH REGIMENT was made up of Company I from Juniata, and Snyder Counties, and Companies from Juniata, Mifflin, and

Perry Counties. Company I was commanded by Captain William H. Byers, the First Lieutenant was George E. Hackenberg. The regiment was organized at Camp Curtin in the fall of 1861, and then proceeded to Washington where it was assigned to the First Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Winfield Scott Hancock. The regiment participated in the Peninsular Campaign, taking part in the battles of Williamsburg, Gaines' Mill, Peach Orchard, and Savage Station. During the campaign of 1862, the regiment took part in the battles of Crampton's Gap, Antietam, and Fredericksburg.

Under the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac, with Hooker in command, the 49th regiment was assigned to the Sixth Corps commanded by General Sedgwick, and participated in the Chancellorsville Campaign, taking part in the battles of the Salem Church and Gettysburg. In 1864, the regiment participated in the battles of the Wilderness and Laurel Hill. Company I took part in the Battle of Spottsylvania Courthouse, May 10, 1864. In this battle, Captain William P. Kephart was killed. Kephart was mustered into service September 14, 1861, for three years. He was promoted from First Sergeant to Captain, March 3, 1864. On account of Sheridan being vigorously engaged with Early in the Shenandoah Valley, the 49th was transferred to the relief of Sheridan's Army, taking part in the Battle of Winchester. Upon the expulsion of the Confederates from the Shenandoah Valley, the Sixth Army Corps joined the Union Army in its assault upon Petersburg. When Petersburg was evacuated, the Sixth Corps pursued the fleeing enemy, overtaking it and fighting the Battle of Sailors Creek, April 6, 1865. In this action the 49th lost seven men, among whom was First Lieutenant George E. Hackenberg. It was present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, April 9, 1865. The 49th regiment returned to Washington, and the men were mustered out of service. Of the nearly 1,000 men in the regiment, by the end of the war, 380 had been killed or wounded in the various campaigns between 1861 and 1865.

THE 51ST REGIMENT had three companies from Union and Snyder Counties and men from Juniata and Mifflin Counties. They were companies E, H, and K. The regiment was organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, with John F. Hartranft as the Colonel. Hartranft later served as Governor of Pennsylvania (1873-1879). The 51st regiment became a part of Burnside's expedition to North Carolina to enforce the blockade of the Southern States. Roanoke Island, Elizabeth City, Fort Macon, and Newbern on the Neuse River were captured. The expedition then embarked for Fortress Monroe. There Burnside organized the Ninth Army Corps, and the 51st regiment became a part of the Second Brigade of the Second Division. The regiment marched to re-inforce General Pope and took part in the Second Battle of Bull Run, and in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. The regiment was then sent to Kentucky, and from thence to the support of General Grant before Vicksburg. Later it joined Grant's Army in its march to Richmond, taking part in the battles of the Wilderness. Spottsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Weldon Railroad, and Petersburg, and finally was mustered out of service, July 27, 1865, at Alexandria, Virginia.

COMPANY D, 52ND REGIMENT, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was composed entirely of men from Union and Snyder Counties. The company was recruited during the summer and fall of 1861 and was organized at Camp Curtin. The regiment participated in the battles of Williamsburg and Fair Oaks in the Peninsular Campaign, and in the attacks on Fort Wagner and Fort Sumter, Charleston, South Carolina. It joined Sherman in his march through the Carolinas. It was mustered out of service at Harrisburg, July 12, 1865.

COMPANY F, 56TH REGIMENT, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, had nine Snyder County soldiers. This regiment had the distinction of opening the infantry fire at the Battle of Gettysburg and of being present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.

THE 74TH REGIMENT consisting of one company from Snyder County, Company D, was organized at Camp Wilkins, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was mustered into the service of the United States. It participated in the campaign against Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley. The company was then transferred to the division commanded by General Carl Schurz of Pope's Army, taking part in the Second Battle of Bull Run, and being heavily engaged at Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg. Subsequently, it performed defense duties among the islands along the coast of South Carolina and at the fortifications of Washington. Later the company served in West Virginia and was mustered out of service August 29, 1865, at Clarksburg, West Virginia.

THE 76TH REGIMENT, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Company D, recruited in part from Snyder County, was mustered into service September, 1861, and served until the close of the war. Its services were mostly in the South, participating in the successful attack on Fort Pulaski, Tybee Island, near Savannah, in April, 1862. In July, 1863, the regiment made an unsuccessful attack on Fort Wagner with a loss of 187 killed and wounded, and it participated in the assault and capture of Fort Fisher, Beaufort, South Carolina.

COMPANY D, 78TH REGIMENT, had ten soldiers from Snyder County. It was mustered into service in March, 1865, and was discharged in September, 1865.

COMPANY D, 92ND REGIMENT, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, had some men from Snyder County. This regiment was originally commanded by Colonel Edward C. Williams of Mexican War fame. The company experienced strenuous service and was present at Johnston's surrender at Durham Station, North Carolina.

THE 112TH PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT, Second Heavy Artillery, had thirteen men from Snyder County. Much of the time was spent in different forts. In the spring of 1865 it was made a part of the Army of the Potomac.

THE 131ST REGIMENT, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, consisted of one company, Company F, composed of men from Middleburg, Selinsgrove, and vicinity, with a nine months' enlistment. George W. Ryan of Middleburg was the Captain, and Lewis Miller of Globe Mills was first lieutenant. The men assembled at Selinsgrove, ferried across the river, and left by train for Camp Curtin. The regiment was formed in the summer of 1862, and participated in the campaign against Lee in his first invasion of the North. It played an important part in the Battle of Fredericksburg in which Captain Ryan was killed. Lieutenant Miller was then promoted to the captaincy. It also took part in the Battle of Chancellorsville. After the term of enlistment of the men had expired, the regiment returned to Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was mustered out of service, May 23, 1863.

THE 141ST REGIMENT, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, enlisted for three years or for the duration of the war. When President Lincoln called for volunteers, Charles S. Davis of Selinsgrove organized a company known as Company G. All of the men came from Snyder County. Davis was chosen captain of the company, September 13, 1862. When the company departed for Camp Curtin to be mustered into the service of the United States, it was composed of seventy-five men, but with later enlistments, the company was raised to its full

strength. The company later was made a part of the 147th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, First Brigade, Second Division, commanded by General John W. Geary, and stationed at Bolivar Heights, Virginia. It took part in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. In September, 1863, the regiment was made a part of the 20th Corps under the command of General Hooker. It participated in the battles of Chancellorsville, Wauwatchie Valley, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Vine Creek, and Ringgold or Taylor's Ridge, Georgia. In the last-named battle, November 28, 1863, Company G lost its brave captain, Charles S. Davis, who "fell mortally wounded while gallantly leading his troops into battle". In the campaign of 1864, Company G participated in the battles of New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, the siege and capture of Atlanta, and joined Sherman in his march to the sea. At the close of the war, the company was present at Johnson's surrender at Durham Station, North Carolina, and participated in the Grand Review in the nation's capital, May 23-24, 1865. The regiment was mustered out of service near Bladensburg, Maryland, June, 1865.

A brief sketch of Captain Davis' life is very much in order as an addition to the account of his company and regiment. Captain Charles Selin Davis was born in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, February 4, 1827. His parents were James K. and Margaret Davis. He was well-educated, possessed strong mental abilities, and was loved and respected by his associates. He held a clerical position in Philadelphia for some time, and then engaged in the mercantile business in his native town in which he continued until he was mustered into the service of his country. He was married to Emma J. Smith, the daughter of the Reverend J. W. Smith of Selinsgrove. Mrs. Davis was an accomplished musician and played the melodeon in the Trinity Lutheran Church. Captain Davis was a nephew of Mrs. Henry C. Eyer, a lineal descendant of Major Anthony Selin. He was the father of seven children, three sons and four daughters. Two of the daughters, Maria Louisa and Laura Cordelia, were married to A. W. Potter and Charles P. Ulrich, attorneys-at-law of Selinsgrove. His body was brought home and was interred in the New Lutheran Cemetery of his native town where a large monument as a sister's tribute marks the grave.

THE 152ND REGIMENT, Third Heavy Artillery, contained men from Snyder County. This regiment saw service from November, 1862, to November, 1865. Its chief service was the defense of certain fortifications. While it was stationed at Fortress Monroe, it served as a guard of Jefferson C. Davis, the president of the Southern Confederacy.

THE 161ST REGIMENT, sometimes known as the Sixteenth Cavalry Organization, was organized in the fall of 1862. The regiment was made up of men from twenty different counties of the state, among which was Snyder County. It went into camp at Bladensburg, Maryland, and participated in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. and in 1864, it participated in Grant's Campaign against Richmond culminating in Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.

COMPANY F, 172ND REGIMENT, was made up principally of men from Snyder and Northumberland Counties with detachments from the counties of Union, Montour, Clearfield, Elk, McKean, and Butler. This company has special interest since it was the company to which James Hummel of Middlecreek Township belonged. The regiment was organized at Camp Curtin, November, 1862, with men of nine months' enlistment. On December 2, 1862, the regiment was sent to Yorktown, Virginia, and there it continued to perform garrison duty until July, 1863, when it was attached to the Eleventh Army Corps. This corps joined in the pursuit of Lee's retreating army to Williamsport, Maryland. Upon

the escape of the Confederate Army, the corps marched to Warrenton Junction. Since by this time the period of enlistment had expired, the men were returned to Harrisburg and were mustered out of service, August 1, 1863.

COMPANIES A, C, G, F, AND I, OF THE 173RD REGIMENT, had men from Snyder County. Its chief service was restricted to the area around Yorktown, Virginia, but they never engaged in battle.

THE 182ND REGIMENT, Twenty-first Pennsylvania Cavalry, contained men from Snyder County. It served under General Philip Sheridan and took part in a number of engagements during the last year of the war.

THE 184TH REGIMENT, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was largely recruited during the spring of 1864, was organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, was attached to the Army of the Potomac, and then engaged in the Wilderness Campaign. Companies F and I of the regiment were composed largely of men from Snyder County. Company F. was commanded by Captain Henry K. Ritter, and the first lieutenant was Henry Benfer. Company I was commanded by Captain Lewis C. Edmonds, the first lieutenant was Michael Smith. The regiment participated in the Battle of Cold Harbor, the siege of Petersburg, and terminated its service in the surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox Courthouse. It participated in the Grand Review in Washington and was then mustered out of service.

THE 208TH REGIMENT consisted of two companies, A and D, of men from Snyder County. The regiment was organized in September, 1864, at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Alfred B. McCalmont was the colonel and M. T. Heintzelman of Port Trevorton was lieutenant colonel. The regiment was sent to Bermuda Hundred on the James River. Later it was a part of the Army of the Potomac, being assigned to the First Brigade, Third Division, of the Ninth Corps. It participated in the attack on Fort Steadman and in the assaults on Fort Sedgwick and Petersburg. Upon the close of the war, the regiment returned to Alexandria, Virginia, and was mustered out of service, June 1, 1865. Joseph H. Feehrer's Selinsgrove Band was attached to this regiment.

Colonel Mish Tobias Heintzelman

Colonel Heintzelman deserves a prominent place in the history of his adopted county because of his distinguished services during the Civil War. No other enlisted man from Snyder County gained so high a military rank in the entire Civil War with the single exception of General Williams, and he wasn't a resident of the county at the time of his enlistment. Colonel Heintzelman was born in Schuylkill County, June 29, 1830. He received a common school education and served as a clerk in a store at Hickory Corners, Northumberland County. At the age of thirteen he made his home with William G. Herrold, (1820-1880) of Port Trevorton. Some years later he was made a deputy in the prothonotary's office at Middleburg during the term of office of Mr. Herrold as the prothonotary of Snyder County (1855-1858).

At the opening of the Civil War, he enlisted as second lieutenant, Company D, 76th Regiment known as the Keystone Zouaves, recruited from York County, and was made adjutant of the regiment. The regiment assembled at Camp Cameron, Harrisburg, October 16, 1861. It was sent to Fortress Monroe, and from there to South Carolina where it was attached to the brigade commanded by General Horatio G. Wright. It participated in the capture of Ft. Pulaski on Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River. Lieutenant Heintzelman resigned from the army August 14, 1862. He re-enlisted as captain of Company A, 172nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry, and was mustered into service November 11, 1862, at Camp Curtin, for a term of nine months. The

regiment was composed principally of men from Snyder and Northumberland Counties. He was promoted to the rank of major January 1, 1863. The regiment was moved to Newport News and then to Yorktown where it performed garrison duty. Later it was ordered back to Washington and then marched to Hagerstown, Maryland, where it was attached to the Eleventh Corps. These troops pursued Lee's retreating army from Gettysburg, and after its escape across the Potomac, marched to Warrenton Junction. By this time the period of enlistment had expired and the regiment returned to Harrisburg where it was mustered out of service August 1, 1863. His final enlistment took place September 7, 1864, when he was made lieutenant colonel of the 208th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. The regiment was composed of companies A and D from Snyder County. It was mustered into service at Camp Curtin and was sent to Bermuda Hundred where it performed picket duty. It was attached to the Army of the Potomac. It took part in the attack on Ft. Steadman and the occupation of Petersburg where it received the news of Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Heintzelman was made a brevet-colonel April 2, 1865, for meritorious conduct in the battle of Ft. Steadman. He was mustered out with the regiment June 1, 1865, at Alexandria, Virginia. He died in Port Trevorton after a lingering illness, June 12, 1872, and was buried in the Witmer's Church Cemetery, West.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Wagenseller

The name Wagenseller has been prominently identified with the medical profession in Selinsgrove for over a century. Since 1825 there have been six physicians of that name in Selinsgrove — Drs. Jacob, Peter Richter, Benjamin Franklin, Franklin Jacob, Harry Franklin, and Frank Clinger, the last-named being the present representative of the Wagenseller family engaged in the practice of medicine in Selinsgrove. This sketch concerns itself with Dr. Benjamin Franklin Wagenseller. He was the second son of Dr. Jacob and Mary Richter Wagenseller, born February 17, 1838, in the Wagenseller home, still standing on the north side of Pine Street at Third on the Isle of Que. In 1851 he became a student at Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg) and later continued his studies at Bucknell University. In 1856 he began the study of medicine under the tutelage of Dr. Samuel Wagenseller in Pekin, Illinois. During 1858 and 1859 he read medicine with his brother, Dr. P. R. Wagenseller. He entered the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania and was graduated in 1860 with the M. D. degree. In 1861 he began the practice of medicine in Beavertown, Pa.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he soon abandoned the practice of medicine and entered the army. On August 2, 1862, he was commissioned an assistant surgeon by Governor Andrew G. Curtin, and was assigned to the 139th regiment recruited in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, and immediately was sent to the front. The first assignment of the regiment was the painful duty of burying 1,799 soldiers of the Union Army killed in the Second Battle of Bull Run, August 27, 1862. On January 31, 1863, he was promoted to surgeon and was assigned to the 158th regiment. In 1864 he was assigned as surgeon to the 201st regiment with the rank of major and he served with the regiment until the close of the war. Upon his return to civil life he resumed the practice of medicine in Selinsgrove. His army experience was applied with great skill and success in his practice among the people of the county. He was one of the original organizers of the Snyder County Medical Society in 1874. He was a member of the State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association. He served as president of both the county and state medical societies. For more than twenty-five years he was physician and surgeon to the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Dr. Wagenseller was very active in politics as a member of the Republican Party. He was a delegate to State and National Conventions. In 1868 he was an elector and cast his vote for Grant and Colfax. In 1869 President Grant commissioned him as revenue assessor of the Fourteenth District composed of the counties of Dauphin, Juniata, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union, which position he held until 1872. In 1873 he was a candidate for Congress. He was equally active in local affairs. He served as the county coroner for two terms, became the postmaster of Selinsgrove under Benjamin Harrison's administration, served as school director and town councilman, and was the chief burgess of the borough a number of terms. While chief burgess he was one of the leaders in the famous Selinsgrove Water Works Controversy. He was connected with the Lafayette Lodge of the Masonic Order, and was a charter member of the Captain Charles S. Davis G. A. R. Post. He was identified with a number of business interests of the town, although his interests were primarily professional rather than business. From 1881 to 1894 he was the lecturer on Physiology and hygiene at Missionary Institute.

On March 25, 1861, he married Maria A. Schoch, the daughter of Jacob Jr. and Catherine Miller Schoch. During Dr. Wagenseller's army life Mrs. Wagenseller lived in Washington. She often related while she was out horse-back riding she would meet President Lincoln, who was also out for recreation and exercise. They nodded to each other very politely, and proceeded on their way. Dr. Wagenseller's residence in Selinsgrove was the house on the west side of Market Street, now No. 30 South Market, which proved a place of culture and refinement and often was the scene of sociability and entertainment. They had one child, a daughter, Martha Jeanette, who later was married to Martin L. Snyder. Dr. Wagenseller died in 1913. He was recognized generally as a skilled physician and surgeon, a distinguished citizen of the county, and an able leader in community affairs.

There was a very human as well as humorous side to the life of Dr. Wagenseller. One interesting and rather amusing anecdote deserves to be re-told. It shows the character and nature of the man. He owned some lots in the vicinity of Selinsgrove that were used as truck patches. One of them was located on the hill slope west of the town, now the property of Susquehanna University, and was used as a berry patch and apple orchard. The other patch was situated north of town, on the east side of Penn's Creek at the end of the old Red Bridge. Here he raised potatoes, horse feed, and some vegetables. A certain person stole repeatedly some of the potatoes, and Dr. Wagenseller resolved to apprehend the thief if at all possible. One night Dr. Wagenseller with a loaded shot-gun concealed himself advantageously in the lot, and patiently waited for the arrival of the thief. He soon made his appearance and began to dig potatoes. At an opportune time, the doctor blazed away with his shot-gun. The thief managed to make his escape, and the doctor went home to bed. Soon a man arrived at the doctor's office and requested the removal of some shot from his body. After the shot had been satisfactorily removed, the man asked, "Doctor, how much do I owe you?" To this the doctor drolly replied, "Nothing, I put them in and I guess I can take them out again."

Captain Joseph H. Feehrer and his Military Band

Captain Joseph H. Feehrer and his military band merit great commendation, not only for their military services in the Civil War, but also for what they accomplished in the way of furthering the cause of band music in civilian life. Captain Feehrer enjoyed a great reputation as a band master and composer of marches. He organized the first band in Selinsgrove in 1856, and was instrumental in starting many bands

throughout Central Pennsylvania. His Selinsgrove band was much in demand. Every time a club or a church held a picnic, or a political rally or a parade or serenade was staged, Feehrer's band was called upon to furnish the music. The band was attached to the 208th regiment, P. V. I., and boosted the morale of the "Boys in Blue" during the trying years of 1864 and 1865 of the Civil War. Feehrer was born of native American stock April 13, 1838, on the Isle of Que, in the house now occupied by John Bolig. His father, Joseph Feehrer (1765-1843), served as a drummer boy in the Revolutionary War. He was a private in the 7th Company, 6th Battalion, Lancaster County Militia. In appearance he was short of stature, being five feet two inches tall and weighing 110 pounds at the time of his enlistment in the army. His hair and wide mustache were jet black and his eyes were blue. His vocation was that of a wood turner and his avocation was a musician. His education was limited to the schools of his day. He was married to Susan Hoffman of McKees Half Falls, and at the time he went to war he had two sons, William and Charles, now both deceased.

On September 12, 1864, when the 208th regiment was organized at Camp Curtin, the Selinsgrove Band under the leadership of Joseph Henry Feehrer became a part of that organization. Feehrer as the leader of the band received the rank of captain. The regiment was made a part of the Army of the Potomac, and served in the campaign around Petersburg. Captain Feehrer kept a diary of his war experiences, but unfortunately portions of it have become lost. The diary shows the trend of his thinking at the time and recounts numerous army incidents, both happy and sad, with respect to the hard life of the soldier, the frequent desertions of the rebels into the Union lines, the band concerts and serenades, and his concern as a father and husband for his family as evidenced by his correspondence.

That his services as a musician in the army were satisfactory is shown by the fact that the diary repeatedly carries the notation after a concert: "complimented very highly". To bring about variety, Feehrer composed many compositions himself. During these war years, rumors of all kinds reached the army and Feehrer's band did much to dispel the gloom of uncertainty and to attain and to maintain the morale of the troops. It must have been a great day after the capture of Petersburg when Feehrer's band played for Grant, Sherman, Farragut, and President Lincoln, upon their visit to that place. April 13, 1865, was another great day for the band when it was called upon to give a concert in honor of General Sheridan who visited their camp at Petersburg. Feehrer really climaxed his military career when he led the massed bands down Pennsylvania Avenue May 23-24, 1865, in the Grand Review at the nation's capital at the close of the war. The band was mustered out of service June 1, 1865.

It was a great day of rejoicing when the men disembarked from the train across the river at the junction, and by means of row boats and rafts, crossed the river to Selinsgrove. A great celebration of parades, feastings, and merry-making followed their homecoming. Captain Feehrer followed his trade as a woodturner for a number of years, but then devoted all of his time to music. He traveled all over the county organizing bands at Freeburg, Kreamer, Middleburg, Beavertown, and McClure. He devoted several weeks of his time to each of the bands, instructing the members and arranging the music to fit the respective ability of the players. When the organization was well under way, he placed the foremost player in charge of it. His work as a bandmaster was not limited to his native community. He organized bands at Belleville, Milroy, Yeagertown, Rebersburg, Bellefonte, and State College. Captain Feehrer was a great musician, bandmaster, and Christian gentleman. He gave himself unreservedly in promoting

the cause he loved so much. His reputation as a bandmaster and composer of over 5,000 marches, quick-steps, and anthems spread far and wide so that national bands quite generally used his compositions. At the commencement of Susquehanna University in 1913, the honorary degree of Master of Music was conferred upon him in recognition of his services as a citizen and musician. He died October 12, 1927, at the ripe old age of eighty-nine years.

The James Hummel Incident

In order to deal effectively with deserters and to enforce the draft during Civil War days, a detail of soldiers with all equipment, arrived from Harrisburg in the spring of 1863, ferried across the river from the Selinsgrove railroad station to the town, and camped on the southwest corner of High and Bough Streets, which was then a vacant lot. This detail was under the command of Captain John Cox and Sergeant William I. Kephart. Captain Cox was of company H, recruited at Milroy, Mifflin County. He was mustered into the service of the United States August 15, 1861, for a period of three years, and was discharged November 19, 1863. Sergeant Kephart was mustered in September 14, 1861, for three years. He was promoted from sergeant to captain, Company G, 49th regiment, P. V. I., March 3, 1864, and was killed at the Battle of Spottsylvania Courthouse, May 10, 1864, it is reported, by his own men as he was generally very much disliked by them. That the detail performed its assigned task is evidenced by the fact that offenders were picked up here and there and were lodged in the Middleburg jail and in the Selinsgrove lock-up, located at the time where the present Pine Street school building is located.

This particular incident concerns itself with a man by the name of James Hummel, a resident of Middlecreek Township, in Civil War days. The subject in question entered the army as a substitute. Evidently chafed under its exacting disciplines and hardships, he sought relief and made a temporary escape from it. Finally after a long nerve-racking experience as a fugitive for over seven months, he was apprehended by the Federal authorities and was returned to military service again. Within about two months, however, his period of enlistment had expired and he was privileged to return home. This constitutes the skeleton outline of the story about to be related.

It is fortunately not true that civilized man is prone by nature to engage in war of his own accord with his fellow men. The failure of voluntary enlistments to provide the necessary number of soldiers is evidence of the fact that men are not inherently disposed to kill one another. Men have to be drafted for war, must be trained

by propaganda to hate other men, and must be taught to kill one another as a duty they owe to the state. War is the result of nurture instead of nature. It was for this reason that a militia draft order was issued October, 1862, since the regular Federal Conscription Act was not enacted until March 3, 1863. The militia draft of 1862 was based on the principle that so long as each man drawn produced a man, it made no difference whether the drafted person or one hired to take his place appeared for muster. The Conscription Act of March 3, 1863, definitely legalized this procedure. Up until the act of February 24, 1864, the conscript had his choice of hiring a substitute, or paying the government \$300 as commutation service, or enlisting himself. After that date substitution alone was permitted only for conscientious objectors. The Conscription Act of March, 1863, is entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the National Forces, and for other purposes". The act consists of a preamble and thirty-eight sections. Section thirteen of the act states that those drafted may furnish substitutes or pay not more than \$300, the amount to be fixed by the Secretary of War. The act exempted the unfit, a few officials, and the sole supporters of orphans and aged parents. The purpose of this now famous conscription act was to authorize the President of the United States to recruit the army by draft.

Mustered Into Army Service

It was a rather common practice at the time for men in responsible positions of civil and political life, when drafted for military service, to hire substitutes for themselves. This procedure was permissible under the law and there was considered nothing particularly unpatriotic about it. A draftee was privileged by law to render his services to his country either personally or vicariously. Azariah Kreeger (1830-1916), the owner and proprietor of a clothing store at Middleburg, Pennsylvania, was conscripted for military duty under the provisions of the militia draft of October, 1862. James Hummel of Middlecreek Township offered his services to Mr. Kreeger as his substitute for \$100 and a suit of clothes, and the offer was accepted.

Kreeger and James Hummel then went to Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, where Hummel was sworn into the services of the United States, October 28, 1862, and Kreeger accordingly was discharged.

Of Hummel's army experiences very little is known except that he remained in the service only a short time. Suffice to say that he found army life irksome and vexatious to his ill-disciplined spirit, and when the earliest

opportunity presented itself, he escaped from it and went into hiding on the old homestead to avoid the anticipated military discipline for his act and to evade further military service. The HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS by Bates states that Hummel deserted November 4, 1862. This unpatriotic act on the part of Hummel deprived the government of the services of Kreeger, to which it was entitled, and also deprived Kreeger of his money by not giving value for it in return.

Hummel's escapade was not an uncommon practice at the time. Draft evasions and desertions from the army were frequent occurrences. After the Union defeat at Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, and at Chancellorsville, May 2-3, 1863, it is said that soldiers were deserting the Union Army at the rate of 200 per day. The cause for such wholesale desertions is not hard to find. The cause of the North looked very discouraging, the cost of the war was enormous, the draft was exceedingly unpopular, and a strong peace party had arisen in the North. During Lee's Invasion, a riot had broken out in New York City to resist the draft in which about 1,200 lives were lost and \$2,000,000 worth of property was destroyed. Sometimes these army desertions partook the nature of a racket. Under the militia draft order of 1862, a man might offer himself as a substitute, collect his bounty, enlist in the army, then desert and re-enlist elsewhere. Such men were known as bounty-jumpers, repeating the process until finally caught. It has to be said to the credit of James Hummel that he was not a bounty-jumper.

The Experiences of Hummel as a Fugitive

Hummel continued as a fugitive from the army for over seven months. During this period of time he lived sometimes in the house formerly occupied by himself and his wife; sometimes in the barn concealed under the straw; and more often in the nearby woods, sleeping on leaves along the side of the trunk of a fallen tree, or in a rudely constructed shack. His drinking water was obtained from a nearby brook, and his meals, which were prepared by his mother, were obtained in the old family springhouse. Federal officers repeatedly searched the house, barn, out-buildings, and the nearby woods for James Hummel but without success. Relatives report that James Hummel had related to them that sometimes these officers were so close that he heard them talk and make plans. Equipped with a native cunningness that seemed almost uncanny, armed with a determination that he would never surrender, aided and abetted by members of his own family, friends, and neighbors, he succeeded for a long time in outwitting the officers of the law. It has to be admitted

that the draft was exceedingly unpopular in the community, and neighbors did not hesitate to shield him whenever and wherever possible. Finally the day came when face to face with the strong arm of the law, Hummel, almost but not quite, became its victim.

The Attempted Arrest in the New Berlin Church

The circumstances surrounding the occasion can be briefly told. It all happened at the funeral of Hummel's sister, Phoebe, at New Berlin, Pennsylvania. Phoebe, the wife of Daniel Spitler, had died, and James Hummel decided to emerge from his hiding place to attend the funeral. The burial took place first, followed by the services in the church. In some way Captain Cox, stationed at Selinsgrove, received information on Saturday, April 18, 1863, of the funeral, and believed that Hummel might venture to attend it, and that an arrest might then be possible. Captain Cox accordingly ordered Sergeant Kephart and an assistant to go to New Berlin, with instructions to arrest Hummel in the church, reasonably presuming that no resistance would be offered there, and that bloodshed would be avoided. But they were badly mistaken. The officers and Hummel recognized each other on the cemetery, but no attempt for some reason was made to arrest him there. The attempt, however, was made just a little later during the funeral services in the church as we shall presently see.

This unfortunate incident took place in the old Lutheran and Reformed Church building, located on the southwest corner of Vine and Market Streets, and now the site of the present Evangelical and Reformed Church. This union church was erected during the years 1821-1822. It was a two-story brick building with a gallery on three sides and a steeple surmounted by a brass-winged angel with trumpet. In 1867, the union of the two congregations was dissolved. The Reformed Congregation retained the old church building, remodeled and modernized it, and completely removed the second story together with the angel and trumpet, and the church then became known as the Emanuel Reformed Church of New Berlin. In the meantime, the Lutheran Congregation constructed a church building of its own on a neighboring lot to the west.

While the funeral services were in progress, Sergeant Kephart and his assistant attempted to arrest Hummel. They walked right up to the pew where Hummel was seated, tapped him on the shoulder, and commanded him to surrender. Hummel replied that he would not be taken alive, and immediately opened fire on Kephart. The only thing that saved Kephart from being killed was the

fact that he wore a steel breastplate. Shots were repeatedly exchanged and Hummel was pierced with a bullet in his left side. Hummel dropped to the floor, but almost instantly sprang to his feet and renewed the fight, discharging two more bullets at Sergeant Kephart. By this time the people who hadn't fled from the church had arrayed themselves either on the side of Hummel or on the side of the officers. It is estimated that from fifteen to twenty shots were fired. A dozen or more of the relatives came to the rescue of Hummel, attacking Kephart and his assistant, beating and clubbing them with their fists and pistols, and even firing at them, while some others took the side of the officers and declared Hummel was a deserter and should be arrested and duly punished. For awhile a free-for-all fight was waged. A brother, Benjamin, seized a pitcher and smashed it over the head of William (Billy) Benner, the father of Everett Benner, a butcher and auctioneer of New Berlin. In the general melee, with the assistance of relatives, James Hummel made his escape. He fled to a farm in Jackson Township known for many years as the Henry Sauer farm, and hid himself there for some time. It was here that the bullet was removed by a very crude surgical operation performed with an ordinary pocket-knife.

Arrested and Returned to Military Service

Later Hummel came to the old homestead. He continued in hiding for about seven more weeks. On a certain Sunday morning, June 12, 1863, Hummel left his hiding place in the woods and went to the brook for a drink of water, leaving behind his weapons, never thinking that the officers might be on his trail at that time. He was surrounded by them, and defenseless, he submitted to arrest, but only on the condition that he wouldn't be charged a deserter; otherwise, he would die rather than submit. It is said the officers agreed to this. Hummel was taken back to the army headquarters. What happened there is not known. His time of enlistment was practically over, however, and he was mustered out of service August 1, 1863.

The Subsequent Career of James Hummel

Of the subsequent career of James Hummel not much is known. Shortly after his stormy career in Middlecreek Township, he moved to Michigan where he married a second time and became a farmer near Blissfield. About the year 1905, he visited his relatives and friends in Middlecreek Township. He stayed around there approximately two months and then returned to his Michigan home where he died. There is no question but that he

must have had some character defect or else his conduct would have been otherwise. James Hummel came from a reputable family that lived on a farm in Middlecreek Township, about two miles north of Globe Mills. There were eight children in the family — four sons and four daughters. That he was not in the good graces of his father is evidenced by the provision in the father's will that he was not to receive any inheritance from the estate in excess of the seventy dollars already received by him, but the share he normally would have received minus this amount was to be equally distributed among his four children. Just why James Hummel was actually disinherited by his father is simply a matter of conjecture. It may have been because of his general waywardness, the dissension in his own family and the failure to provide for his wife and children, the unfortunate army experiences, or perhaps all combined. The mere fact that the will was made shortly after the close of the war, when all these incidents were still fresh in the mind of the aged father, lends credence to the latter point of view.

General Summary of Snyder County's Services in the Civil War

Snyder County furnished one brigadier general in the Regular Army — Simon Snyder, the son of Major Henry W. Snyder (1797-1866) who served as the paymaster of the United States Army stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and who was a son of Governor Simon Snyder (1759-1819). Brigadier General Snyder served in the regular army previous to the outbreak of the Civil War. He served during the Civil War in the campaigns against the Indians under General George Custer and finally in the Philippine War following the Spanish-American War of 1898. The county also furnished one lieutenant colonel, five majors, eleven captains, twelve first lieutenants, and thirteen second lieutenants. Snyder County provided a grand total of 1324 enlisted men and two full companies of Emergency Militia. The enlisted men were distributed in twenty different regiments and in six different army corps.

Note: For a list of the soldiers of the Civil War, buried in Snyder County up to May 30, 1917, consult Wagenseller's Snyder County Annals, Vol. I (149-163). For a list of the veterans serving in Snyder County Units and buried elsewhere; and for a list of the veterans serving in other Units and buried in Snyder County, consult the records compiled by the Graves Registration Commission, Dr. George S. Moyer, Supervisor, in the Library of the Snyder County Historical Society.

The Spanish-American War

The Cuban people had been engaged over a long per-

iod of time in a struggle to secure their independence from Spain. Inhuman treatment, oppression, starvation, and the deprivation of certain rights by the government of Spain led to their revolt. The sympathies of the American people were overwhelmingly in behalf of the struggling Cubans, and in due time demanded intervention. The destruction of the battleship MAINE in the harbor of Havana proved to be the precipitating cause of the war. On April 20, 1898, President McKinley issued his proclamation that Spain withdraw her land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters. It was indignantly rejected. Three days later he called for 125,000 volunteers, and the war with Spain began.

Snyder County did not play a prominent part in the war. There were no army units in this war, recruited as such, of men from the county. In the records of the Adjutant General's Department of Pennsylvania, Snyder County has no credit for a single volunteer, although the county furnished at least thirty men, a chaplain, and an army surgeon for the regular army and for volunteers. These men belonged to companies A, C, and E of the Twelfth Regiment, Company D of the Tenth Regiment, Company L of the Fifth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and a number belonged to the regular army. The Fifth Regiment, National Guards of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was mustered in at Mt Gretna, received training at Chickamauga, Georgia, and at Camp Hamilton, Lexington, Kentucky. This regiment was mustered out in November, 1898. The Tenth Regiment, National Guards of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel Alexander L. Hawkins, was mustered in at Mt. Gretna, and was sent to the Philippines direct from Mt. Gretna. The regiment returned to the United States in the summer of 1899. Colonel Hawkins died on the return voyage. He was buried at his home in Washington, Pennsylvania. The regiment was mustered out at Pittsburgh in 1899. The Twelfth Regiment, National Guards of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was mustered in at Mt. Gretna and received training at Camp Alger, Virginia, and at Camp George B. Meade at Middletown, Pennsylvania. The regiment was mustered out October, 1898.

Note: Consult the "Record of Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish-American War", Adjutant General's Office, for the volunteers from Snyder County.

Selected Readings

- Bates, Samuel P., The History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 5 Vols.
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- Pennsylvania at Gettysburg
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- Schroyer, Michael S., "The History of Company 'G' ", Snyder County Historical Society Bulletin, Number 2, Vol. 2
- The Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys Vol. 1 (83-415)
- Record of Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish-American War — Adjutant General's Office

CHAPTER 30

The Role of Snyder County in the Nation's Wars

Those who can win a war well can rarely make a good peace, and those who can win a good peace cannot win a war.

Winston Churchill

Snyder County in World War I

When war broke out with Germany in the spring of 1917, the young men of the county began to volunteer for military service without waiting to be drafted. So extensive was this volunteering during the first several months following the declaration of war that by the time the first draft quota of 144 men was called, 140 men had already enlisted so that only four additional men had to be furnished to meet this first draft quota. This proved to be a situation without parallel among the counties of Pennsylvania, and equalled only by the city of Harrisburg. A spirit of patriotism prevailed throughout the county similar to that of 1861-1865 when Snyder County sent 1324 men to war. To say the least, such a record speaks eloquently in behalf of the German population whose loyalty and devotion had been called into question. Their patriotism continued throughout the war on the same high plane that characterized them since Revolutionary War days.

With the declaration of war, our government immediately took the necessary steps to prevent sabotage by German spies and by people of our own country who might be in sympathy with the enemy. On the very day that diplomatic relations were broken with Germany, February 3, 1917, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad tracks along Blue Hill and the Pennsylvania Railroad bridges at Selinsgrove across the creek and river were carefully guarded by men from Company I, Thirteenth Infantry, of the Pennsylvania National Guards. These guards were stationed at both ends of the creek and river bridges and on the island that joined the two sections of the river bridge. As an extra precautionary step, high tension wires were strung across the bridges to Selinsgrove Junction with powerful search lights that brilliantly illuminated the entire area. Later in the summer, the troops were replaced by railroad police, and towards the close of the year, even these were withdrawn on the grounds that dangers were no longer in evidence. These protective measures were merely a part of the general precautionary program of the entire country to guard against the destruction of reservoirs, railroad tunnels, railroad bridges, industries, and centers of great importance in production and transportation.

Registration For Selective Military Service

All men eligible to the draft between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one were required by law to register June 5, 1917, for the selective service draft. The respective polling places of the various districts of the county constituted the places for registration. It is reported that not a single man was found in the county who failed to register. On the day of registration 1,232 men from the county registered. This number constituted little more than seven per cent of the total population of the county and about twenty-seven per cent of the registered voters of the county. The complete lists of the registrants, given by townships and boroughs, are recorded in the files of the Middleburg POST for June 7, and 14, 1917, and also in the SNYDER COUNTY ANNALS, Volume II. The personnel of the local draft board consisted of Sheriff Charles S. Mattern, County Commissioner Henry A. Bowersox, and Dr. Harry F. Wagenseller, a practicing physician of Selinsgrove as the medical examiner. Birchard J. Moyer served as the clerk of the draft board up to the time he was called into the armed services. He was succeeded by John N. Brosious.

On June 5, 1918, a second registration took place for those men who became of age between June 5, 1917, and June 5, 1918, when 113 additional men from the county were registered. During the remainder of June, July, and August twenty-four men registered. This increased the total registration for the county to 1,343 men. On September 12, 1918, a final registration was conducted covering all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-six in the county exclusive of those between twenty-one and thirty-one who had already been registered. This final registration included 1,710 more men, thus making the total number of registered men for the county 3,079.

Selection and Induction of the Men

The order of selection for military service of the registered men was determined by lot. If the men were found acceptable for military service, they were sent to a cantonment for training; otherwise they were rejected and turned back to civilian life again. Induction into the military services occurred at varying intervals at the county-seat. The number of men inducted at any one time varied considerably. In this way the men became widely scattered in different army organizations, serving in different parts of Europe and in the home land.

In World War I, there wasn't the recruiting of men in the county for certain distinct military units of the various branches of the service as was characteristic of

previous wars. There were several notable exceptions to this rule such as the Susquehanna University Ambulance Corps and the Selinsgrove Motor Truck Company. The Ambulance Corps, consisting originally of forty-eight men, was mustered into the United States Army in the Alumni Gymnasium on the campus of the university, June 8, 1917. The corps was largely made up of students and of men from different parts of the county. The unit was further recruited until there were two full units that became a part of the Third Contingent for overseas duty. The recruiting was done by Captain Sydney E. Bateman, M. D., a former resident of Selinsgrove, a minister of the Lutheran Church, a graduate of the old Medico-Chirurgical College, and an alumnus of Susquehanna University. It stands to the credit of the university that it furnished ninety men for the armed forces, or about forty per cent of the entire male enrollment at the time. On June 21, 1917, the Ambulance Corps left Selinsgrove for the training camp at Allentown. Dr. E. Raymond Decker of Selinsgrove was the commander of the unit and Claude G. Aikens served as sergeant. The men of this unit served in France and Italy and were fortunate enough not to have any casualties.

The Selinsgrove Motor Truck Company was recruited after a campaign of four days, and was mustered into the National Guards of Pennsylvania at Selinsgrove, July 28, 1917. The unit was composed of sixty-three men, twenty of whom were from Snyder County, and most of the remaining number coming from Sunbury and Northumberland. The company left Selinsgrove August 7, 1917, for Mt. Gretna where it was designated Truck Company, Number Four, Ammunition Train, National Guards of Pennsylvania. First Lieutenant Garfield J. Phillips was in command of the company. When the National Guards became a part of the United States Army, the truck company was sent to Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, where it was attached to the 103rd Regiment, Ammunition Train, of the 28th Division.

Participation in the War

Many of the volunteers from Snyder County belonged to the 28th Division. Many of them had been in the National Guards of Pennsylvania and had served on the Mexican border prior to America's entrance into World War I. In May, 1918, the 28th Division was taken to France. Most of the first contingents of the drafted men were put into the 311th and 314th Regiments, 79th Division, at Camp Meade, Maryland, and were then sent overseas. Practically all of the casualties of this division occurred in the Montfaucon area during the months of

September and October, 1918. Snyder County men were also found in the 4th, the 42nd (Rainbow), the 77th, 78th, and 82nd, and the 90th Divisions. These divisions participated in the heavy fighting on the Aisne-Marne, Chateau-Thierry, Saint Mihiel, Soissons, Fismes, Argonne Forest, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, and the Thiacourt Sector. The men who were drafted in the latter part of July and August, 1918, for the most part, made up the 56th Pioneer Infantry and served in the Army of Occupation at Coblenz, Germany, or they became a part of the First Division and served in the Army of Occupation along the Rhine, after the signing of the Armistice November 11, 1918.

Home Front Activities for the Prosecution of the War

The Committee of Public Safety of Pennsylvania was authorized by President Wilson and was appointed by Governor Brumbaugh in 1917. An organization of the committee for Snyder County was effected with President Charles T. Aikens, chairman, Dr. Percival Herman, vice-chairman, George W. Wagenseller, secretary, and Kemer C. Walter, treasurer. Later this organization became known as the Snyder County Council of National Defense. The chief work of the committee was to provide ways and means for obtaining an ample food supply for both the civilians at home and the soldiers abroad. Citizens were urged to plant and cultivate vacant lots and fields, and to conserve food supplies in every way. A series of sixteen meetings was held in all parts of the county to acquaint the people with this food conservation program. There were to be seven wheatless meals per week. The government reported that about one-third of the total wheat crop of America was needed for our own army and for the armies of England, Italy, and France. Mr. R. L. Schroyer of Selinsgrove served in the capacity of the local food administrator of the county, and William A. Hassinger headed the fuel administrative committee. Dr. John I. Woodruff was the chairman of the committee on publicity and of the Speakers' Bureau, made up of four-minute men. The primary purpose of the committee was to provide the general public with important information, to build morale, and to promote liberty loan drives.

Liberty Loan Drives

There were five liberty loan drives during World War I. These liberty loan campaigns were waged and the citizens were urged to subscribe generously to meet the assigned quotas. The liberty bonds were of various denominations. War saving certificates were sold at \$4.12 that would be worth five dollars within five years with the ac-

crued interest. Thrift stamps were sold at twenty-five cents each with a card folder to hold sixteen of these stamps. During the three liberty loan campaigns, the Honorable W. C. McConnell, Shamokin, Pennsylvania, State Senator of the Twenty-Seventh Senatorial District (1908-1920) served as the chairman of the district composed of Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties. During the last two campaigns James G. Thompson, president of the First National Bank of Middleburg, served as chairman of the two counties of Union and Snyder. The amount of liberty bonds sold in the county during each of these campaigns was approximately as follows:

First Liberty Loan	\$ 73,100
Second Liberty Loan	110,000
Third Liberty Loan	350,950
Fourth Liberty Loan	680,400
Fifth Liberty Loan	558,250
Grand Total	\$1,772,700

Red Cross Organizations

Red Cross Societies were organized throughout the county consisting of a chapter and auxiliary organizations for the purpose of promoting the successful prosecution of the war. The county Red Cross Society was formally organized at Selinsgrove May 15, 1917, with branches at Selinsgrove, Middleburg, Freeburg, Port Trevorton, Kreamer, Verdilla, Beavertown, West Perry Township, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Beaver Springs, Shamokin Dam, Kratzer-ville, McClure, Shriner's, Salem, and Penns Creek having a total membership of 2,222 members, or about one-eighth of the population of the county.

The Y. M. C. A. Drive

A Young Men's Christian Association Drive was waged in the county in November, 1917, under the direction of Professor T. A. Stetler, the county superintendent of schools. A local chairman was in charge of the campaign in each township and borough of the county. Approximately \$5,000 was raised. The United War Fund Drive in November, 1918, netted about \$8,000.

General Summary of the Service Men

In all there were 609 persons from Snyder County in the military service. When the Snyder County Honor Roll was unveiled June 15, 1919, it contained these 609 names. To this list eighteen more names were added making a total of 627 names of persons serving in World War I. Of this number 570 were volunteers or inducted men in the various branches of service in camp and field, thirty-three were in the students' Army Training Corps,

and six were volunteer nurses. The officers in World War I from Snyder County consisted of one colonel, three majors, six captains, twenty-four lieutenants, one sergeant major, one ensign in the navy, forty-five sergeants, thirty-four corporals, two chaplains, and two medical men. Of the drafted men forty-seven were rejected at camp and returned to their homes. Snyder County lost twenty-eight men in the war. Of this number six were killed in action, six died of wounds, fifteen died of diseases, and one died of an accident. Two lieutenants, two sergeants, and four corporals lost their lives while in service. Thirty-one men were gassed or wounded. Roy R. Bickhart, Paxtonville, Pennsylvania, was the only soldier from Snyder County taken prisoner. Selinsgrove Motor Truck Company, and the Susquehanna Ambulance Units were the military units organized by volunteer enlistment.

Note: For a list of the soldiers from Snyder County in World War I, consult Wagenseller's Snyder County Annals, Volume II. The record usually includes a photograph of the man, together with a brief sketch of his civil and military career.

Snyder County in World War II

The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940

For a number of years there had been ominous signs on the horizon of a Second World War. The 76th Congress of the United States took cognizance of these signs by enacting the Selective Training and Service Act in September, 1940. This was an act to provide for the common defense by increasing and training the personnel of the armed forces of the United States. The primary purpose of this new law was to strengthen the defenses of the nation. All male citizens between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six were required to register for military service at such times and places as would be designated by the constituted authorities. This Selective Training and Service Act was amended in 1941 by substituting "between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five" for the words "between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six". The act made provision for relieving from the liability for military service certain persons between these ages such as those who had already served three consecutive years in the regular army, regular or duly ordained ministers and theological students already preparing for the ministry for at least a period of one year, some college students under certain conditions, and those persons who were conscientiously opposed to participation in war.

The Local Draft Board

There was to be one Selective Service Board or local

draft board for at least 30,000 of the population in a county. Since the counties were made the units for registration and for selective service, those counties with large populations had more than one draft board. The population of Snyder County in 1940 was 20,208, and hence the county had only one selective service board. There were in all of the counties of Pennsylvania a total of 422 draft boards. The local draft board consisted of three board members, an examining physician, and a government appeal agent learned in the law. This legal adviser was appointed by the governor for the purpose of assisting registrants in filling out their questionnaires. The members of the draft board and their secretary and clerks were not privileged to assist the registrants in the work. The board members were nominated first by a committee consisting of the County Superintendent of Schools, Frank S. Attinger, the President Judge of the County Courts, Curtis C. Leshner, and the County Commissioners, E. T. Lepley, Eugene Kemberling, and Charles F. Troxell, and upon the recommendation of the governor, they were approved by the President of the United States. The members of the draft board were Dr. R. W. Johnston of Selinsgrove, L. Banks Wetzel of Beaver Springs, and A. D. Gougler of Middleburg. The organizational meeting of the board took place October 21, 1940. A. D. Gougler was chosen chairman and L. Banks Wetzel, secretary. When Dr. Johnston resigned, December, 1944, on account of ill health, John W. Smith of Selinsgrove was appointed to fill the vacancy and he served from January 17, 1945, to the end of the war. A. D. Gougler and L. Banks Wetzel served through the entire period. Grace Snook of Middleburg served as clerk of the board from October 21, 1940, to June 1, 1946, and Mrs. Marjorie Keefer was the assistant clerk from December 5, 1940, to March 21, 1942. Mrs. Marian Mauser was the assistant clerk from January 24, 1944, to June 1, 1946, and has been chief clerk since that time to the end of the war. Miss Mary Shambach of Beaver Springs served as an assistant clerk on a part time basis from December 10, 1943, to the end of the war. Mrs. Mary Swavely served as a special clerk to work on occupational questionnaires from April 27, 1942, to July 2, 1942. Miss Mary Moyer served as a special clerk from July 1, 1942, to September 4, 1942.

The local draft board faced a tremendously large and difficult task over a long and trying period of time. From October 21, 1940, to January 1, 1947, or a period of more than six years, it held 347 meetings averaging at least two hours in length. All these meetings were held in the selective service office in the courthouse of the county-

seat. The government paid the rent of this office. The members of the board served without pay. Only the secretary and clerical assistants were paid for their services. Those members of the board who lived at some distance from the county-seat were recompensed for their traveling expenses at the rate of five cents per mile. The board was given the advantage of a special appeal attorney who was present at the board meetings for the purpose of giving any legal assistance such as the interpretation of the Selective Service Law and all of its amendments, and the numerous regulations governing the work of the Draft Board. All registrants were classified by the board, and these classifications had to be verified by the appeal attorney.

Classification of Registrants

The classification of the registrants indicated the decisions of the local draft board as to whether a man is available for military service or whether he is given deferment. The meaning of the different classifications needs be given here for a proper understanding of the different groups.

Class I — MEN AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE. Under this classification, there were five subdivisions as follows:

- A. Men fit for general military service.
- B. Men fit only for limited military service.
- C. Men now in the land and naval forces.
- D. Students fit for general military service and available not later than July 1, 1941.
- E. Students fit only for limited military service and available not later than July 1, 1941.

Class II — MEN WHO HAVE DEFERRED STATUS FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS BECAUSE OF CIVILIAN ACTIVITY.

Class III — MEN DEFERRED BECAUSE OF DEPENDENTS.

Class IV — MEN DEFERRED FOR OTHER REASONS

- A. Men deferred who had completed their military service or who are over thirty years of age.
- B. Men deferred because of being public officials.
- C. Aliens.
- D. Ministers and divinty students
- E. Conscientious objectors.
- F. Men physically, mentally, and normally unfit for military service.

The Classes II, III, and IV constituted the deferred classes on the basis of physical condition, employment, dependents, civilian activity, foreign birth (not yet citizens), and physical, mental, and moral conditions wholly disqualifying them for military service.

The men in the first class, composed largely of single men in their twenties, were summoned first. Married men and others with dependents were placed under a deferred classification. Registrants were privileged to make an appeal to the State Board of Appeals at Harrisburg over the decisions of the local draft board and of their appeal attorney. There never was any denial of any draftee to make this appeal if he so wanted. Draftees were always accorded the privilege to be heard if they requested that privilege. There were in all about twenty-five conscientious objectors in the county. While there were cases where the persons involved attempted to evade the draft by making certified statements that obviously were open to question, and employed influences whose intent and purpose was to get the draft board to deviate from its course of impartiality with respect to their own special case, it has to be said that never once did any registrant or draftee resort to intimations of threats or bribery of the members of the board as a last resort to win special favors of them. Such a record stands out in bold relief as a fine tribute to the citizens of Snyder County.

Attorney A. Francis Gilbert served as the appeal attorney for the county until he was elected President Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District in 1941. Attorney Horace W. Vought, District Attorney of Snyder County, then succeeded him. Since Attorney Vought was a registrant and was officially connected with the Snyder County Draft Board, he was sent to the Draft Board of Union County to be officially classified and for his medical examination. Upon Attorney Vought's induction into the armed services, Attorney Joseph F. Ingham of Selinsgrove became his successor and has served up to the end of the war.

Registrants for Military Service

The first registration in compliance with the provisions of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 was held between the hours of 7 A. M. and 9 A. M., October 16, 1940, and covered the ages between twenty-one and thirty-six years. Aliens as well as citizens were required to register. Since the draft board was not organized in time to plan for the registration, this first registration was carried out under the auspices of the County Commissioners, E. T. Lepley, Eugene Kemberling, and Charles F. Troxell.

The registrations were conducted in the twenty-five polling places of the county, and the membership of the registration board was composed for the most part of public school teachers selected by the County Superintendent of Schools, Frank S. Attinger of Middleburg. He simply made an appeal to the school teachers of the county and they were willing to give their services. Failure to register subjected the delinquent to five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000. So far as known, all persons eligible for registration complied with the law and registered on this day. All the schools in the state were closed on the official Registration Day in compliance with the proclamation of Governor Arthur H. James who desired the day to be impressed on the minds of the school children as a very significant occasion. All the State Liquor Stores and similar establishments remained closed for the day. The men were privileged to register at any time during the day within the hours prescribed. If they happened to live away from their homes, they were privileged to register at the nearest registration place. The registration called for the person's name, address, telephone number, age, place of birth, country of citizenship, the name of a person who would always know the person's address, and his employer's name and address. The registrant was required to swear that the information given was correct and to attach his signature to the registration card.

The number of persons registered at this first registration was 2,254. The registration carried the obligation of a year's compulsory military training under the Selective Service Act passed in September, 1940. At Susquehanna University there were registered in addition forty-seven college students by a special board. This special board for the college was appointed by the county commissioners, and consisted of the Reverend Dallas C. Baer, pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Marion S. Schoch, editor and publisher of the Selinsgrove Times and Ernest T. Yorty, Business Manager at Susquehanna University. This special registration was for the convenience of those undergraduates who were living too far away from their homes to make registration with their home boards practicable. The twenty-five boards of the county made their returns to the County Commissioners' office in Middleburg which in turn transferred all the registration cards to the local draft board. Upon the receipt of the cards, the members of the draft board sorted the cards, retaining those in their jurisdiction and sending the cards of non-resident persons to the draft boards of the home districts. A complete list of the names of all the registrants was then forwarded to the State Draft Headquarters at Harrisburg. The sec-

ond, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth registrations were conducted by the Selective Board or the local draft board.

The SECOND REGISTRATION was conducted June 30, 1941, and included those persons who had become twenty-one years of age since the time of the first registration. The number of persons that registered was 122. The THIRD REGISTRATION took place February 16, 1942, and included those persons of twenty years, those between the ages of thirty-six and forty-five, and those who had reached the age of twenty-one since the preceding registration. The number registered was 1,139. The FOURTH REGISTRATION took place April 27, 1942, and covered the ages between forty-six and sixty-five. There were 1,868 such registrants. The FIFTH REGISTRATION was held June 30, 1942, and included men from eighteen to twenty-one years. There were 455 registrants. The SIXTH REGISTRATION took place December 16, 1942, for those who had attained the age of eighteen, and such registrations were continued for persons in the future as soon as they reached the age of eighteen but without any set general date for their registration. In other words, just as soon as a person attained the age of eighteen, he came to the office of the draft board for registration. The complete list of registrants for all six registrations totalled 6,499.

Method of Selecting the Service Men

The number of persons registered in the First Registration was 2,254, and consequently there were that many registration cards in the hands of the draft board. The Act of 1940 provided that the selections for military training and service from those persons registered were to be made in a thoroughly impartial manner. To accomplish this, the draft board shuffled thoroughly these 2,254 registration cards, face down, and then turned the cards face up, and numbered them in succession from 1 to 2,254 as their serial numbers. This then completed the work of the Draft Board preparatory to the operation of the national lottery. In the meantime, at the drawing of numbers in Washington by the President of the United States, October 29, 1940, the first number drawn was 158. Maurice L. Heiser of Swineford happened to be the holder of this serial number. This number then applied to all draft board lists. It ought to be stated here that Mr. Heiser was killed in action in France, July 16, 1944, being the twentieth Snyder Countian known to have made the supreme sacrifice. Heiser's infantry unit was among the first to make the invasion of the continent. The second serial number drawn was 192 and its holder was Marvin J. Spigelmyer of McClure. Mr. Spigelmyer survived the war.

After the drawing at Washington was completed, a master list of all the numbers drawn at Washington was then sent to Governor James at Harrisburg who in turn forwarded a copy to each one of the 422 draft boards of the state. Since 158 was the first number drawn, that number then became Order Number One and 192, the Order Number Two, and so on until each registrant had an order number. If the number drawn at Washington was not among the registered numbers in the county, that number was discarded so far as Snyder County was concerned and the next number was used instead. For the sake of illustration, if the draft number drawn had been 3,000, and since the number of registrants in the county at the time did not exceed 2,254, that number was dropped and the second number was taken instead and so on, until the quota was filled. In this way was established the order in which the men were selected for the service.

Medical Examination of Drafted Men

At first the medical examination of the draftees was conducted by the physicians of the county. Dr. Charles W. Straub was the first physician appointed under the Conscription Act. Later on this board of local medical examiners was discarded and all the inductees were sent to Williamsport or to Harrisburg for their examinations. These resident physicians were Drs. Henry F. Ulrich and Charles W. Straub of Middleburg, Howard F. Straub, George M. Bogar, and Alexander Slavcoff of Selinsgrove. In course of time, two dentists were added to the staff of examiners: Drs. Brosius Shipe of Selinsgrove and F. W. Tischke of Middleburg. The total number of drafted men examined was 3,325. Of this number over 700 young men were found completely incapacitated for military service, and were rejected by the medical practitioners or by the psychiatrist or by both. Attorneys Cyril F. Runkle, Donald M. Johnson, Horace W. Vought, and Harry A. Coryell rendered valuable services to the registrants in the way of counseling and in giving assistance in filling in blanks and questionnaires. Many of the registrants needed such assistance in providing for the draft board the correct and complete information called for in the occupational and selective service questionnaires mailed out to them by the draft board in the order of their serial numbers.

Number of Inductees

A total number of 1,602 men were inducted into military service from Snyder County. The accepted inductees were all sent either to Fort Meade or to New Cumberland, and from there were distributed among the different training camps of the country. The Local Draft Board

appointed a leader and an assistant leader from among the members of each group of inductees sent out of the county. These leaders were charged with the responsibility of seeing that each man was provided with a transportation ticket and that the total number of inductees in that particular group actually reached the induction center. If the transportation was by bus, the bus company was required to submit bids for such transportation. At times the inductees were taken by bus to Sunbury and from there by railroad to Harrisburg, while at other times the entire transportation distance was covered by bus. For the payment of the transportation either by bus or by railroad, a form certificate was filled in for the bus or railroad company, and these in turn were paid by the government. Sometimes the quota under the selective service act was partly filled by volunteers who had already offered themselves for one year's military training. The largest number of men called at any one time in the county was 166.

Army Air Forces Given Training at Susquehanna University

In February, 1943, Susquehanna University was selected by the War Department as one of the colleges to give the Army Air Forces Training Program. About 350 aviation cadets known as the 35th College Training Detachment entered Susquehanna University in March, 1943. The course of training required about five months to complete and consisted of academic work, military training, and flight training at the Milton Airport. The purpose of the training program was to prepare the men to become navigators, bombardiers, or pilots in the Army Air Corps. At intervals of approximately five months, new contingents arrived on the campus as replacements. During the fourteen months' instruction period, approximately 1,000 aviation students were enrolled. This training continued until May, 1944.

Hassinger Hall and Selinsgrove Hall and the first floor of the Alumni Gymnasium were used as barracks. The civilian male students were housed in the fraternity houses. The college dining room served as the army mess hall. A dispensary was established by the army in one of the dwellings of faculty row on University Heights. The aviation cadet program and the program of the college students were conducted on an entirely separate basis. The members of the faculty of Susquehanna University served as the teaching staff in addition to a number of imported instructors and members of the Army Detachment Staff. Dr. Alexander Slavcoff was the contract

physician and surgeon of the Aviation Corps. The commanding officer of the detachment was Captain George M. Green, assisted by First Lieutenants James H. Zimmerman, Peter G. Kardasakas, Charles Cowing, and Second Lieutenant Norman C. Johnson.

"Home Guard" Units

During the summer of 1942, "Home Guard" Units, designated "Minute Men", were organized in the county as part of a state-wide military set-up. William M. Schnure of Selinsgrove, who had served recently on the Pacific Coast as first sergeant of the Second Infantry, California State Guards, was appointed the captain of the Snyder County military program by Governor Arthur H. James. The county had two organized military units. They were company 55A at Selinsgrove, William M. Schnure, captain, and company 55B at McClure, Jacob H. Erb, captain. Each company was made up of sixty men and three officers. The companies furnished their own arms, uniforms, and other equipment conducted weekly drills, and participated in local defense measures such as the blackouts, patrol duty in times of floods, and other projects. These two military units furnished many men for the regular armed service.

Home Civilian Defense Preparations

Space will not permit here a complete account of the defense preparation by the civilian population of the county. Suffice to say that the citizens generally seemed to realize the need of every precaution of safety and of adequate preparation to make it possible. The probability of an air raid or a bombing attack by the enemy was assumed from the very beginning of the war, and no stone was left unturned to prepare for such an eventuality. The opinion prevailed that so far as Germany and Japan were concerned, almost anything might be expected. As things finally turned out, fortunately much of this home defense preparation proved unnecessary.

This home preparation assumed almost every conceivable form and affected practically every citizen. There were committees and organizations that provided an opportunity for every citizen to make some contribution with work and money to the total war effort. Undoubtedly the work of the Red Cross stands second to that of no other organization in its contribution to the alleviation of human suffering and for providing for the general welfare. During the war years the Red Cross met magnificently many of the needs of both the civil and the military. Over 2,000 persons were trained in First Aid and

Home Training. Hundreds of sweaters, scarfs, mittens, socks, gloves, helmets, beanie's, and shawls were knitted by the women of the county for the army, navy, and the war refugees. Large quantities of clothing were made and shipped to the places where they were most needed. The clothing included layettes, dresses for women and children, slips and underwear, night clothes, pajamas, blouses, men's shirts, night shirts, skirts, overalls for boys and men, overcoats, and large numbers of surgical dressings, gowns and operating robes for hospital needs. The Junior Red Cross made dozens of pairs of bedroom slippers and robes of knitted blocks and of patched woolens and outing for the wounded veterans in the hospitals.

Then followed the need for blood donors for the National Blood Bank. Snyder County people furnished a total of 1,196 pints of blood for the wounded, which amount was three times the quota of the county. The Home Service program included the handling of inquiries and messages of those in the armed service, information concerning the prisoners of war, furloughs and furlough extension verifications, reports on the condition of the families of the soldier abroad, assistance with government benefits, financial assistance, vocational rehabilitation, hospitalization, and numerous other services.

Space will not permit scarcely more than a general summary of the many activities engaged in by the home civilian population. It is hoped that a rather detailed account of them may some day be given so that future generations may know full well the labors and sacrifices on the part of their forefathers in behalf of the total war effort in the years from 1941 to 1945. Those years constitute a critical period in American History as well as in World History. The common people in general saw the need for overcoming aggressor nations, and they spared no means and money to make their defeat unquestionable.

An air raid warden had charge of the entire county, and assistant wardens assumed responsibility for the several districts. Aircraft warning observation posts were established throughout the county. A school for the special training of the wardens of this area was conducted at Lewisburg, January 5-6, 1942. Air raid sirens were the signals for the beginning of the black-outs periods and also for the all-clear at the end. These black-outs were held throughout the county at irregular intervals, but were held frequently enough to enable people to acquire the needed intelligent behavior in case of an actual air raid. There were civilian defense councils for the different areas of the county for the purpose of keeping the people informed about the home defense program. Consider-

able use was made of sound pictures as a means of instruction of the general public. A housing committee made a survey of vacant houses, available rooms, and household equipment in the event evacuees from the bombing areas would be sent here for the county to care for. The conservation program called for food, gasoline, and automobile tire rationing under the direction of the county rationing board; the inspection of automobile tires periodically; the use of victory gardens as a means of increasing the food supply; the salvaging of waste materials such as scrap iron, scrap rubber, tin cans, and newspapers for use in defense industries; the conservation of the local water supply; the reduction of telephone calls to a minimum; and the saving of gasoline by eliminating pleasure driving.

A veterans service committee was organized in October, 1944, for the purpose of co-ordinating all the services that the various social agencies of the county could offer the discharged veteran and his dependents. A directory was prepared giving the needed information concerning the type of service that each agency could render such as procuring suitable employment, obtaining admission to schools and colleges, acquiring housing facilities for the married veteran and his family, and helping him to obtain the necessary public assistance to become rehabilitated in order to earn a livelihood for himself and his family again.

War Loan, United Service Organizations, and Red Cross Drives

War Loan Drives

No.	Dates	Quota	Total Sold	Percentage
1	Nov. 30-Dec. 23 1942	\$500,000	\$561,538.75	112.3
2	April 12-May 1 1943	840,000	895,854.15	106.6
3	Sept. 9-Oct. 2 1943	315,600	342,720.25	108.6
4	Jan. 18-Feb. 16 1944	406,000	439,878.00	108.3
5	June 12-July 8 1944	450,000	471,631.00	104.8
6	Nov. 20-Dec. 16 1944	395,000	411,710.75	104.3
7	May 14-June 30 1945	425,000	612,598.50	144.1
8 (Victory)	Oct. 29-Dec 8 1945	248,000	646,652.25	260.7

The Defense Stamps Savings Program began May 1, 1941. So far as known, there was no record kept of the total amount of stamps sold in the county.

United Service Organizations Drives (USO)

United Service Organization Drives were launched annually from 1942 to 1945 inclusive. The contributions for these years totalled in round numbers respectively \$2,000, 3,000, \$11,000, and \$7,000. The proposed drive for 1946 did not get under way until February, 1947. The quota assigned for the county for this drive was \$1,800, and the amount raised was \$1,884.01.

Red Cross Drive

Annual Red Cross Drives were made necessary to finance the extensive humanitarian services rendered by the Red Cross through the years both in war and peace, at home and abroad, in behalf of both the civilian and the military and their families. In 1943 the Red Cross drive totalled \$6,071.54; in 1944, \$9,241.64; in 1945, \$11,040.74; in 1946, \$5,918.76; and in 1947, \$3,493.53.

Local War Industries

The Machine Shop of William E. Nagle and Son of Selinsgrove furnished large quantities of steel tools for the railroads, shipyards, structural engineering companies, and government war contracts. William E. Nagle had received his training and experience from George Westinghouse, having been in the employ of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company for fourteen years. In 1940 the government instructed him to train persons for the machinist trade. In the following two years, 250 men were trained and were placed in responsible positions in various machine shops. In 1942 the firm sold the plant to the J. and P. Manufacturing Company (Jenkins and Powell). The new management continued to supply the materials for important war contracts.

The Groce Silk Mills at Selinsgrove and Port Trevorton, the Middleburg Silk Mill, and the Beavertown Silk Company were engaged in the manufacture of parachutes and silk for officer's uniforms. The Standard Shirt Companies in Beaver Springs and McClure made mattresses and various kinds of clothing for the army; the Middleburg Tannery provided large quantities of leather goods; the Wood-Metals Industries, Incorporated, of Kreamer manufactured mess tables, ammunition boxes, shipping crates, and cargo nets; the Susquehanna Land and Lumber Company of Kreamer furnished large quantities of lumber for construction purposes; and the Bogar Lumber Company of Selinsgrove held sub-contracts for lumber used in the building of the Allenwood Ammunition Depot.

The Casualties of the War

Complete and accurate data concerning the casualties of the war have not yet been made available. What com-

pilations are now available are apparently due for considerable revision. According to the War Department Reports*, released in June, 1946, there are fifty Snyder Countians who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II. The Selinsgrove TIMES-TRIBUNE furnished a list of sixty-six Countians dead in the war. This discrepancy between the two lists may be accounted for by the fact that the local newspaper's roll of the Victory Valiants includes native sons as well as known former residents who were inducted into the service from a county other than Snyder County, and who gave that other county for their home address. The War Department's list of fifty dead is classified as follows: "thirty killed in action, four dead of wounds, twelve dead under non-battle conditions, and four finding of death."

* World War II. Honor List of Dead and Missing —
State of Pennsylvania.

CHAPTER 31

Military Organizations, Memorials, and Related Activities

As long as mankind shall continue to bestow more liberal applause on their destroyers than on their benefactors, the thirst of military glory will ever be the vice of exalted characters.

Edward Gibbon.

The Old Battalion

The militia constituted those citizens enrolled as a regular military force for periodical instruction, discipline, and drill but not called into active service except in emergencies. The militia law required all able-bodied men between eighteen and twenty-five to undergo military training over a period of time or be subject to a fine. The militia were considered in two classes, the organized militia better known as the National Guards, and the reserve militia. The term "battalion" was used to designate this training period or annual muster. Great crowds of civilians assembled at such times to observe the training, their marches and counter-marches through the streets, and to admire their gaudy uniforms. The militia law of 1807 divided the state into fifteen divisions. A division was composed of brigades. Each brigade was made up of at least four regiments, each regiment had two battalions, each battalion had six companies, and each company had from sixty-four to one hundred men. The Eighth Division composed Montour, Northumberland, Union, and Snyder Counties. The division consisted of four brigades, Snyder County being the fourth brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General A. K. Middleswarth and William Moyer of Freeburg as the Aid-de-Camp. The Judge Advocate General was Samuel Alleman, Esq., of Selinsgrove. The division was commanded by a major general appointed by the Governor. The lower commissioned officers were chosen by ballot by the men of the division. The rifles were furnished by the state.

In course of time there was so much popular opposition to the militia law that it was repealed. In 1858 a new law was enacted by the state legislature which encouraged the formation of volunteer military units. Liberal provisions were prescribed for the officers and men. The uniforms to be worn were to be those of the regular army, and modern equipment of guns and arms was supplied. Practically every town had its company of militia. Prior to the Civil War and during Civil War days, Snyder County was very active in battalions. Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties constituted one regimental district. The usual meeting place was the town tavern, and quite frequently the commanding officer was the town tavern-

keeper. As may be expected there was excessive drinking connected with these battalions, and frequently many a free-for-all bloody fist fight took place on these occasions. The local companies had their own peculiar names such as the Selinsgrove Rifle Volunteers or the Emmett Guards, named after their captain, John Emmett; the Freeburg Guards; and the Fremont Guards or the Shade Mountain Rangers. At the Hill-end schoolhouse and Kratzerville there was a company commanded by Captain Smith. The music for the Selinsgrove muster was furnished by Antes Ulrich, fifer, Levi Ulrich, the kettle drummer, and John Parks, the bass drummer. The majority of the companies were disbanded before the Civil War, but many of the members enlisted upon the outbreak of the war.

The uniforms of the men of the battalion were varied and colorful. Scarcely two units wore the same type of uniforms. Eye witnesses have left graphic descriptions of the variegated array of the members of the battalion, both at their best and also at their worst.* The orders for drill or formations were printed in the local weekly newspapers and included admonitions to the members to be in regular attendance and to appear for drill and parade in prescribed uniforms or suffer a fine of one dollar.

The Civil War brought to the surface all the shortcomings of these militia programs as ways and means for the common defense. The invasions of the North by the Confederate Armies in 1862 and 1863 showed the great weakness of bringing out the militia for the defense of the nation since only a small proportionate number of the total enrollment actually responded. Ideally, the battalion appeared to be an adequate mode of defense, but practically, it proved woefully inadequate. Every able-bodied man between the prescribed ages belonged to the organization; consequently, when the militia was called out, every man knew exactly where to report to receive his instructions. In this way, the entire military force of the State could be brought into service. The volunteer system provided by an Act of the Assembly in 1822 was something entirely different from the battalion. The weakness of the militia system, the glaring deficiencies revealed by the Civil War, and the travesty of the Spanish-American War hastened the legislation for the universal selective service system of the present day.

The Minute Men of Snyder County of 1862

In most of the accounts of the Civil War, this little known organization of Minute Men is all but forgotten.

* History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, vol.

1 (153) Now and Then, vol. 5 (166)

This is largely due to the fact that they were overshadowed by other groups considered more important. With all the bitter experiences of unpreparedness in previous wars, the nation found itself woefully unprepared to fight the Civil War. This is demonstrated by the unfortunate outcome of the first military campaigns. When Lee's first invasion of the North became imminent, the North was seized with great fear. On September 4, 1862, Governor Curtin issued a proclamation calling on all the people to arm themselves for the common defense. He recommended the immediate formation of companies and regiments throughout the State for instruction and drill in military tactics. On September 10, the Governor issued a general order for all able-bodied men to enroll and to hold themselves in readiness for any services that the emergency might demand, to choose officers, and to equip themselves with such arms as might be found, with sixty rounds of ammunition to the man. On the following day, the Governor, on the authority of the President of the United States, called for 50,000 men.

In response to the call by the Governor, the people were aroused from their indifference. Frank H. Eshelman, a stable boy in Selinsgrove, was among the first recruits for a company of "Minute Men" under the direction of Anthony C. Simpson, Esq. The recruiting was carried on at the Keystone Hotel and Simpson's law office in Selinsgrove, Jeremiah Bogar started recruiting at Port Trevorton. In a week's time sufficient men had enrolled to form a company and steps were taken for their transportation to Harrisburg. In the meantime, the Selinsgrove women had been busily occupied making certain articles for use by the recruits. On the day the company left Selinsgrove, the women presented each recruit with a well-filled haversack, containing three spools of thread, pins and needles, small scissors, coat, vest, and trouser buttons, companion, and a Testament. Each recruit added a blanket from home to his equipment. The men were marched to the river and were ferried across on a flat to the railroad station on the east side. There they were put on two low-sided flat cars with planks laid across for seats. At the Port Trevorton Junction (Herndon), they were joined by Jeremiah Bogar's contingent. Upon reaching Harrisburg, the men were marched to Camp Curtin, MaClay and Sixth Streets.

At this camp the election of officers took place and the organization became known as Company D, 18th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia. The men slept for the first night in the Capitol Building. Colonel Ralph Maclay was chosen the commander of the regiment; Anthony C. Simp-

son, captain of the company, William Noetling, first lieutenant; Joseph Eyster, second lieutenant; Frank H. Eshelman, musician, and Jeremiah Bogar, quartermaster of the regiment. The men were then supplied with guns of the Harpers Ferry Musket variety, four rounds of ammunition, shelter tents, and canteens. Instruction and drills occupied their time until September 15, when they entrained for Hagerstown where they went into encampment about two miles from town. Later they marched to the vicinity of Antietam where they were placed in position in line of battle in the rear of a portion of the Army of the Potomac. They were in sight of the Battle of Antietam, but were not required to participate in it. The Confederates were defeated and retreated across the Potomac. Company D was then marched to a position a short distance south of Greencastle, and a little later occupied a similar position north of Greencastle. From there they entrained for Harrisburg where the men turned in their equipment that belonged to the State, and entrained for Selinsgrove Junction, arriving there at seven o'clock P. M., September 26, 1862. The men were ferried across the river to Selinsgrove where they were given a great ovation by the home people, and then Company D, 18th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia was disbanded, after having seen emergency service for sixteen days.

The Minute Men of Snyder County of 1863

The folly of military unpreparedness as revealed during the opening years of the Civil War had not yet impressed the country at large by 1863. No constructive legislation had been enacted by that time to correct its glaring weakness. The militia law of 1822 with its "battalion days" had been superseded by the militia law of 1858 which placed military service on a volunteer basis. The volunteer system did not provide the country with adequate man power to cope with the situation in the opening days of the war. Apparently the people believed that they were capable of muddling through successfully in some way every crisis in our country's history. The people felt cock-sure that America's military prowess as exhibited at Lexington, New Orleans, and in Mexico was equal for any emergency. America didn't need a regular army! That would be a needless expense and a threatening menace to our democracy. That is the way the minds of the people must have run during those years.

This was the general attitude of the State in the spring of 1863 toward the rumors of a second invasion of the North by Lee's Army. Governor Curtin and his adjutant general were expending every possible effort to organ-

ize new volunteer regiments to replace the worn-out organizations in active service. In fact, this was the general policy throughout the entire North. Some of the old regiments had been in service from the time of the Battle of Bull Run, and instead of infiltering them with replacements, they were returned to their homes and new and untried troops commanded by inexperienced officers were sent to the front. This was the situation in the summer of 1863 when unmistakable evidence came to the forefront that General Lee was about to make a second attempt to invade the North and to achieve the peace. Finally, the War Department established two military areas in Pennsylvania. The Department of the Monongahela embraced the State west of Johnstown and the Laurel Hill Range with portions of Virginia and Ohio with headquarters at Pittsburgh; the Department of the Susquehanna embraced the State east of Johnstown and the Laurel Hill Range with headquarters at Chambersburg with General Couch in command. On June 9, 1863, General Couch issued orders for the forming of companies of troops at once in anticipation of the danger of invasion, but the harvest time had come, a shortage of farm labor existed, and little attention was paid the military warning. On June 12, Governor Curtin issued a proclamation calling the peoples' attention to General Couch's orders, but it left the impression that an early invasion was not imminent. Meanwhile the residents of the southern counties of Pennsylvania and of the Susquehanna Valley saw a stream of refugees from Maryland filing northward to places of safety. These refugees were whites, colored slaves, pickaninnies with packs and bundles of household goods, dogs, mules and cattle. To all those residents who saw these groups of refugees, the coming of the Confederates was no idle threat anymore.

Governor Curtin's proclamation was taken seriously at least by some of the citizens. Recruiting papers were opened at the Byer's Hotel (on the site of the Governor Snyder) by Anthony C. Simpson, Esquire, and William Byers, the proprietor of the hotel. In the middle and western portions of the county, the recruiting papers were handled by Lewis Miller, Aaron K. Gift, and Sephahes S. Schoch, at Middleburg, Beavertown, and Adamsburg. Within four days a company of seventy-three men assembled in Selinsgrove. They were ferried across the river on flats where they boarded two box cars and were taken to Camp Curtin at Harrisburg. At the election of officers for the company, Attorney Simpson was again chosen captain; Lewis Miller, first lieutenant; Sephahes S. Schoch, second lieutenant; and Francis H. Eshelman, musician.

The men were sworn into the service of the United States. The organization became known as Company I, 30th Emergency Regiment of Volunteer Infantry. The men were provided with blue uniforms, woolen and oil cloth blankets, knapsacks, canteen, tents and Enfield rifles with bayonets. The regiment went into camp at Washington Heights on the west side of the river. Long hard drills, outpost duties, and strict discipline were the orders of the day. On Sunday, June 28, the regiment broke camp and moved out on the Mechanicsburg Road. Here it was joined by troops from New York State and cavalry and batteries from Philadelphia under the command of General Knipe of the New York National Guard. It soon became evident that Confederates were in the vicinity on a reconnoitering expedition. As a means of defense, fences were torn down, the rails were piled on top of one another, a pretty good line of defence was thrown up, and the troops were placed in line of battle. Soon Confederate skirmishers under General Jenkins appeared, opened fire, and advanced, but were met by such a vigorous artillery fire that they retreated. This was probably the skirmish that occurred the farthest north of any skirmish in the entire Civil War. Picket lines were then thrown out, and later the 30th regiment bivouacked in a field near the Concdoguinet Creek. At this point General Baldy Smith of the Regular Army took command.

At daybreak of May 31, the troops began to march to Carlisle, reaching that place at six o'clock that evening, tired, foot-worn, and hungry. The citizens of Carlisle welcomed the troops with open arms and provided them with a sumptuous meal in the Market House, located across the street from the courthouse. Suddenly and unexpectedly a shell exploded, something like a panic occurred, and the banquet came to an abrupt end. The soldiers seized their guns that had been stacked along the side walks and fell into line. The troops were ordered into the houses in order to defend themselves from the windows. Confederate shells from guns near the barracks exploded in mid-air or fell in and around the campus of Dickinson College. An improvised hospital was quickly established on the college campus. A demand to surrender came from the Confederates under a flag of truce. General Smith refused, and the firing was continued until towards morning when it finally ceased. The Confederates were then well on the way across the mountains to join the main body of the southern army at Gettysburg. Today in front of the courthouse in Carlisle is located a marble stone to mark the spot of the building that was struck by a Confederate shell during this skirmish.

Instead of Company I going to Gettysburg, it was ordered back to Mechanicsburg for the purpose of guarding the Cumberland Valley Railroad. Two days later the company marched twenty miles to Newville and there bivouacked for the night. The next day the company reached Shippensburg and the day following, Chambersburg. Here the regiment encamped from July 8 to July 20. The time was devoted to routine drills and marches to the South Mountain Pass at Monterey and to an official visit from Governor Curtin. On July 20, it again broke camp and marched to Greencastle. From there the men entrained for Harrisburg where their equipment was turned over to the government and the company was mustered out of service. It was not until the evening of July 26, that the men reached the Selinsgrove Station on the east bank of the river, and darkness settled as the flats reached the west bank where they were greeted by the home and family folks again. A fine banquet was tendered the men in Jacob Miller's storeroom, and Company I, 30th Emergency Regiment of Volunteer Infantry was disbanded.

Veterans Organizations in the County

Some years ago there were five Grand Army of the Republic Posts and five Sons of Veterans Posts in Snyder County. Usually where there was a G. A. R. Post there also was a Sons of Veterans Post. The purpose of the latter was to aid the G. A. R. in the performance of their duties, to give assistance to the disabled veterans and their families, to perpetuate the memory of their heroic deeds, to help in the proper observance of Memorial Day, and to inculcate patriotism and love of country among their members and friends. In short, the Sons of Veterans were organized to carry on the work begun by their fathers, after they, because of age and infirmity, were no longer able to do it. Today there are no G. A. R. Posts in the county because a post ceases upon the death of its last surviving member. With probably the single exception of Port Trevorton, there are no Sons of Veterans Posts anymore in active operation in the county. In the year 1947, there were four American Legion Posts and two Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts active in the county. A brief account of each of these posts follows.

Grand Army of the Republic Posts

THE JOHN C. ARNOLD POST, NUMBER 407, DEPARTMENT of the Pennsylvania Grand Army of the Republic was organized February 2, 1889, at Port Trevorton, Pa., with seventy-one charter members. Many of the members of this post originally belonged to the Captain Charles S. Davis Post of Selinsgrove. After the organization of

the Sons of Veterans Post at Port Trevorton, those members of the Selinsgrove Post whose residence was Port Trevorton and vicinity were encouraged to organize a Post of their own in their own home town and were extended the privilege of using the building of the Sons of Veterans for their place of meeting and headquarters. This led to the organization of the G. A. R. Post at Port Trevorton. The Port Trevorton G. A. R. Post was named in memory of John C. Arnold, Co. I, 149th Regiment, P. V. I. John C. Arnold was mustered in service February 25, 1864, for a period of three years. He was made a corporal March 10, 1864. He was killed in the Battle of Sailors' Creek, near Petersburg, Va., April 6, 1865, and was buried on the battlefield. A marker giving the military facts of his life is found in St. John's Cemetery, Chapman.

The last surviving member of the Port Trevorton G. A. R. Post was Amos M. Stroh of Port Trevorton. Amos Stroh was born December 18, 1844, at Salem, Penn Township, Snyder County. Stroh was a canal boatman and later in life was a mail carrier. He was mustered in service Co. D, 208th Regiment, P. V. I., September 7, 1864. He participated in Grant's Campaign from the Battle of Cold Harbor to Appomattox Court House. He was mustered out of service June 1, 1865. He died December 12, 1932, and was buried in the St. John's Cemetery at Chapman.

THE CAPTAIN CHARLES S. DAVIS G. A. R. POST, Number 148, was organized November 22, 1880, at Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. It was named in memory of Captain Charles S. Davis of Selinsgrove, who enlisted in the army, August, 1862, and was mortally wounded in the Battle of Taylor's Ridge or Ringgold, Georgia, November 27, 1863. It was fitting and proper that the Selinsgrove post should be named after him. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, Davis became convinced of the righteousness of the Union Cause, and enthusiastically supported it. He organized the famous Company G of men wholly from Snyder County and was chosen its captain.

Daniel M. Gross was the last survivor of this company of the 147th Regiment, P. V. I. He was inducted into service September 12, 1862, with eighty-four men from Selinsgrove, Port Trevorton, Beavertown, Salem, Globe Mills, and the Kratzerville area. He died July 14, 1930, of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

The last surviving member of the Captain Charles S. Davis Post of Selinsgrove was James W. Ulrich. He was born in Union Township in 1846. He was mustered into service as a private in Company H, 49th Regiment, P. V. I., February 19, 1864, for a period of three years, and was mustered out of service with his company, July 15 1865. He was by trade a blacksmith. He died April 23, 1933, and was buried in the Zion Reformed Church Cemetery at Kratzerville, (West Section).

A GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC POST WAS ORGANIZED AT MIDDLEBURG in 1867. It was called the George E. Hackenburg Post, Number 56. It existed only a few years and then was abandoned. It was named in honor of Lieutenant George E. Hackenburg of Company I, 49th regiment. This company was composed of men from Juniata County and men from Union and Snyder Counties. The regiment was organized at Camp Curtin in the fall of 1861 and then proceeded to Washington where it was assigned to the First Brigade commanded by Brigadier General William S. Hancock. The regiment participated in the Peninsular Campaign, taking part in the battles of

Williamsburg, Gaines' Mill, Peach Orchard, and Savage Station. During the campaign of 1862 the regiment took part in the battles of Cramp-ton's Gap, Antietam, and Fredericksburg.

Upon the re-organization of the Army of the Potomac with Hooker in command, the 49th regiment was assigned to the Sixth Corps commanded by General Sedgwick and it participated in the Chancellorsville campaign, taking part in the battles of Salem Church and Gettysburg. In 1864 the regiment participated in the battles of the Wilderness and Laurel Hill. Because Sheridan was vigorously engaged with Early in the Shenandoah Valley, the 49th was transferred to the relief of Sheridan's army, taking part in the Battle of Winchester. Upon the expulsion of the Confederates from the Shenandoah Valley, the Sixth Army Corps joined the Union Army in its assault upon Petersburg. When Petersburg was evacuated, the Sixth Army Corps pursued the fleeing enemy, overtaking it and fighting the Battle of Sailors' Creek near Petersburg, Virginia. In this action, April 6, 1865, the 49th lost seven men killed and wounded, among whom was First Lieutenant George E. Hackenburg of Company I.

ANOTHER GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC POST WAS IN-STITUTED AT MIDDLEBURG August 7, 1884, with twenty-three charter members. The post was known as the Captain George W. Ryan Post, Number 364, Department of Pennsylvania. It was named after a gallant soldier who was killed in the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862. He was a school teacher by profession. In 1861 he moved with his family from Fredericksburg, Lebanon County, to Middleburg, Snyder County. George W. Ryan was the captain of Company F of the 131st regiment, and Lewis F. Miller of Globe Mills was the first lieutenant. Company F consisted of men from Middleburg, Selins-grove, and vicinity with an enlistment period of nine months. The men of the company assembled at Selinsgrove, were ferried across the river, and then traveled by train to Camp Curtin at Harrisburg. The 131st regiment was formed in the summer of 1862 and participated in the campaign against Lee in his first invasion of the North. The regi-ment played an important part in the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. It was at Fredericksburg, while leading his company in a charge, he was shot first in the right leg, but he limped along until a rebel shell pierced his head. He was buried on the battlefield. Upon his death, Lieutenant Miller was promoted to the captaincy of the company. Captain Ryan is described as "a brave and efficient of-ficer who made strong friendships". After serving the nine months term of enlistment, the regiment returned to Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was mustered out of service, May 23, 1863.

The last surviving member of the Middleburg G. A. R. Post was Henry H. Renninger of Middleburg. He was a member of Co. F, 131st Regiment, P. V. I. He participated in the Battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancel-lorsville. He was mustered out of the service May 23, 1863. He was born in Franklin Township July 21, 1843, and died at his home in Middleburg April 6, 1933. He followed the occupations of farmer, clock-maker, clock-repairer, and carpenter.

THE MAJOR WILLIAM H. BYERS POST, NUMBER 384, WAS INSTITUTED at Beaver Springs, in October, 1883. Later it was re-organized as Post Number 612. This post was organized by Joseph A. Lumbard of the Captain Charles S. Davis Post of Selinsgrove, with fifteen charter members. It was named after First Lieutenant Wil-liam H. Byers, a member of Company I, 49th regiment of Pennsyl-

vania Volunteers. Lieutenant Byers was mustered into service March 4, 1864, for a period of three years. He was promoted from first lieutenant to captain June 16, 1864; to a brevet-major, April 6, 1865; and was mustered out of service with his company, July 15, 1865.

The last surviving member of this Post was James F. Keller of Beaver Springs. He died July 6, 1932, and was buried in the Beaver Springs Cemetery. He was born in Luzerne County, June 21, 1842. When less than a year old, his parents moved on the old Keller homestead, southwest of Beaver Springs. He received his education in the public schools of that place and at the Freeburg Academy. He began to teach school at the age of eighteen, and followed that profession for many years. He served as a private in Company D, 74th Regiment, P. V. I. during the Civil War. He was a charter member of the Major William H. Byers' Post. He served as Justice of the Peace for fifteen years, and for several terms was Notary Public. His uncle, the Honorable Reuben Keller, was the State Senator for the 13th Senatorial District composed at the time of Snyder, Northumberland, Columbia, and Montour Counties. (1858-1861).

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC POST AT McCLURE was originally organized at Bannerville, July 23, 1883, as Post Number 355. It was called the Captain Michael Smith Post. Michael Smith was a first lieutenant of Company I, 184th Regiment, P. V. I. The post held its first meeting on the second floor of Joseph Peter's blacksmith shop. The first regular meeting was held October 20, 1883, with sixty charter members. This post held many get-together meetings at different places and observed the Bean Soup Festivals from time to time, but it wasn't until 1891 that it became an annual event. The G. A. R. Post continued these festivals until 1900 when the responsibility for them was taken over by the Captain Henry K. Ritter Camp, Sons of Veterans of McClure, and has been continued by them up to the present time.

Ner B. Middleswarth was the last surviving member of the McClure G. A. R. Post. Middleswarth was born in West Beaver Township, January 28, 1844, and died January 3, 1929, at his home in McClure. He served as a corporal in the Civil War in Company I, 194th Regiment, P. V. I. He participated in Grant's Campaign against Richmond, taking part in the battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Five Forks, and Appomattox Court House. He was a school teacher for a number of years, was engaged in the real estate and mercantile business, served as the postmaster of McClure, and was sheriff of Snyder County. He also served as the president of the Snyder County Sabbath School Association. It is well to remind the reader that Ner B. Middleswarth was a grandson of Snyder County's very distinguished legislator and statesman.

Sons of Veterans Posts

In the latter part of the year 1887, a **SONS OF VETERANS POST WAS ORGANIZED AT PORT TREVORTON**. The Selinsgrove Post at first put forth some effort to induce the sons of veterans living in Port Trevorton and vicinity to become members of the Selinsgrove Post instead of organizing a post of their own. In fact, several men of the Port Trevorton section had already become members of the Sel-

insgrove organization. Distance, road conditions, and the weather during certain seasons of the year, however, proved a strong deterrent for the others to become affiliated with the Selinsgrove Post.

The sentiment for a post at Port Trevorton seemed quite strong. A preliminary meeting to the organization of a post was held in Boyer's Hall, December 9, 1887, which place later became the permanent headquarters of the newly-organized post. Candidates for the various offices were nominated and a week later the election took place. The installation of the officers followed, December 23, 1887, and an application for a charter was immediately filed. Colonel E. J. Smith of Division Headquarters detailed certain members of the Selinsgrove Post to conduct the mustering exercises. About forty persons were present on this occasion including members of the G. A. R. The roster of Camp Number 150, since its muster, consisted of sixty-two persons, of whom eighteen were charter members. The organization has been in continuous existence since 1887 up to present time.

For a number of years beginning about 1889, the sons of Veterans Post with the assistance of the local G. A. R. had been holding annual campfires on the banks of Mahantango Creek, at a place called Camp Jerry Hall after the name of the owner of the grove. These campfires attracted unusually large crowds. The special features were the army bean soup, sham battles, and the transportation to and from Mahantango in a canal boat. In 1905 the camp purchased a lot from G. I. Flanders on which a hall was erected for their headquarters and meetings. For some years the anniversary of the organization of the camp was celebrated by a roast goose banquet and a program appropriate to the occasion.

The post was named the Colonel M. T. Heintzelman Post in honor of Colonel Mish Tobias Heintzelman of Port Trevorton, who enlisted in the army at the outbreak of hostilities and served three successive periods of enlistment until the end of the war.

IN 1886 A POST OF SONS OF VETERANS WAS INSTITUTED IN Selinsgrove under the auspices of the Captain Charles S. Davis G. A. R. Post, Number 148, of the same place. The post of the Sons of Veterans was named the Major William H. Dill Post of the Sons of Veterans, Number 176, in honor of a veteran of the Civil War, the principal of the Freeburg Academy, and one-time county superintendent of the public schools of Snyder County.

THE GEORGE E. HACKENBURG POST, NUMBER 76, EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, SONS OF VETERANS, WAS ORGANIZED AT MIDDLEBURG in March, 1885. The camp originally had a membership of twenty-six. This camp was named after Lieutenant George E. Hackenburg of Company I, 49th Regiment. He was killed in the battle of Sailors' Creek, near Petersburg, April 6, 1865.

A SONS OF VETERANS POST WAS ORGANIZED IN 1912 AT BEAVER SPRINGS with some thirty members. The chief activity of the Post during the years of its existence was to conduct the Memorial Day services. The post was abandoned in 1919.

A SONS OF VETERANS ORGANIZATION WAS CONSTITUTED AT McCLURE called the Captain Henry K. Ritter Post. The post was named after Captain Henry K. Ritter, commander of Company F of the 184th Regiment, P. V. I. In addition to conducting the Memorial Day Services, the post assisted the veterans in holding the famous Bean Soup Celebration. Captain Ritter represented Snyder, Union, and Juniata Counties in the State Legislature (1861-1863).

American Legion Posts

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST OF SELINGSGROVE was organized September 19, 1919, as Victory Post, Number 25, with 143 charter members. It was called the Victory Post in honor of the thirteen comrades who lost their lives in World War I. Its membership is drawn from the eastern portion of the county, Freeburg, Port Trevorton, Kratzerville, Salem, Shamokin Dam, Selingsgrove, and the immediately adjacent rural areas. The headquarters of the Victory Post have been in the building of the Dauntless Hook and Ladder Company (1919-1921), the Masonic Temple building on South Market Street (1921-1922), the National Hotel (1922), the Decker Building at the corner of Market and Walnut (1922-1925), and the Legion Hall on West Walnut Street (1925-1944). The Post then purchased the Odd Fellows Building, Market and Chestnut Streets, as its permanent headquarters.

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST AT MIDDLEBURG was organized by Bruce Wagenseller. A sufficient membership was secured by June 21, 1919, to file an application with the State Executive Committee of the American Legion for a charter. The charter was granted July 10, 1919, and the post was called the William D. Hackenberg Post, Number 52. Joseph L. Hackenberg, now superintendent of schools of Shamokin, was named as the first commander, Paul Winey was named adjutant, and William H. Stetler was the treasurer. The post held its meetings at various places until 1941 when the Walter's Hardware Building was purchased and made the post's permanent headquarters.

This post was named in memory of the only veteran in World War I from that area who gave his life for his country. William D. Hackenberg was born in Franklin Township, May 7, 1892. Prior to his enlistment in the army, he worked on his father's farm and in the Middleburg tannery. He was a member of Company E, 314th Infantry, 79th Division. Just four days prior to the signing of the Armistice, while returning from a raid on the German positions, he was caught in a barrage of shrapnel and was killed. He was buried near where he fell at Crepion, France, located north of Verdun.

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST OF BEAVER SPRINGS was organized June 7, 1919, with thirty-five charter members. It was called the Erman E. Lepley Post, Number 23, in memory of Erman E. Lepley, Company E, 314th Infantry, 79th Division, who lost his life in the Battle of Montfaucon and the Argonne Forest, September 26, 1918.

THE McCLURE AMERICAN LEGION POST, NUMBER 942, was organized in 1946. Since several comrades of the McClure community had paid the supreme sacrifice in World Wars I and II, the post was named after the community instead of after a fallen comrade. The post was organized with twenty-two eligible members, and was chartered October 22, 1946.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts

THIRTY SELINGSGROVE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I AND II MET May 24, 1946, in the Selingsgrove Community Center and organized a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. It was named the Major Anthony Selin Post, Number 7624, after Major Anthony Selin, a Revolutionary War soldier and founder of Selingsgrove. The post has thirty-two charter members.

THE FIRST VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST IN SNYDER COUNTY WAS INSTITUTED FEBRUARY 12, 1946, AT MIDDLEBURG, PENNSYLVANIA. The organization is known as the Heiser-Hoffman Post, Number 5640, in memory of Maurice L. Heiser and Jay Hoffman

who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II. Private Heiser was killed in July, 1944, and Lieutenant Jay E. Hoffman, aviator, was killed in October, 1942. Membership is open to all veterans of World War I and II who had served in areas outside of the United States.

Last Surviving Veteran of the Civil War

Jairus Roush was the last surviving Civil War veteran of Snyder County. He died in Selinsgrove at the home of his son, Willard Roush, June 9, 1941, and was buried in the Globe Mills Cemetery with full military honors under the direction of the Selinsgrove Legion Victory Post, Number 25. Jairus Roush was born in Washington Township, January 5, 1843, and lived all of his life in his native county, much of it at Kreamer and vicinity. He followed the occupations of farming and carpentry.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he soon became convinced that the Union had to be preserved. He enlisted as a private in Company F, 131st Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, for a period of nine months, and was mustered into service August 12, 1862. He was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862. His company was mustered out of service May 23, 1863. A little later he re-enlisted in Company I, 49th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was mustered into service February 15, 1864, for a period of three years. He took part in the campaigns against Vicksburg and Richmond. He was promoted from corporal to sergeant November 30, 1864, and was mustered out of service July 15, 1865.

Patriotic Organizations

The Patriotic Order Sons of America

The organization of the Patriotic Order Sons of America was established primarily for patriotic purposes. Its name indicates that it is pre-eminently a patriotic organization. It originated in Philadelphia in 1847 under the name of the Junior Sons of America. About twenty years later it assumed its present name. The first P. O. S. of A. in Snyder County were organized in Freeburg and Selinsgrove during the year 1869-70. There followed the organization of camps at Shamokin Dam (1870-71); McKees Half Falls and Adamsburg (1873-74); Kratzer-ville, (1874-75); Port Trevorton, (1889-90); Middleburg, (1890-91); and Hoffer and Penns Creek, (1891-92). Camps were organized later at Beavertown, Kreamer, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Paxtonville, and Troxelville. Of the fifteen camps in the county at one time or another, the seven camps that are still in operation are Kreamer, Freeburg, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Penns Creek, Port Trevorton, Shamokin Dam, and Selinsgrove. The total membership of the camps in the county in 1909 consisted of 515, and by 1928 the membership had reached the peak of 1041.

The fifteen camps in Snyder County and the two camps in Juniata County (Richfield and Oriental) constitute the convention district for this part of the State. District conventions have been held since 1890 in various towns of the district. The principal meeting places have been Shamokin Dam, Port Trevorton, Kreamer, Mt. Pleasant Mills, and Richfield. The members who have served as the district presidents from 1932 to 1946 have been Ira W. Garman, John W. Bittinger, Dewey S. Herrold, Ira T. Fiss, Allen I. Klinger, and Howard N. Brosius. The Honorable Ira T. Fiss has been the only man to serve as state president of the Organization for two terms (1945-1946).

Patriotic Order of America

The Patriotic Order of America (P. O. of A.) is the women's

auxiliary of the men's organization known as the Patriotic Sons of America (P. O. S. of A.). Both organizations are patriotic in character as their names very well indicate. The motto of the P. O. of A. is "God, Our Country, and Our Free Schools". Six such organizations have been instituted in the county at various times, of which number two have ceased to exist. The first P. O. of A. camp in the county was organized in Beavertown in 1915, and was discontinued in 1928; the second camp to discontinue was located at Mt. Pleasant Mills. It was organized in 1928 with forty-three charter members and was disbanded in 1935. The camps that are still active are the Kreamer Camp, organized in 1917 with thirty charter members; the Selinsgrove Camp, organized in 1919 with twenty-nine charter members; the Shamokin Dam Camp, organized in 1928 with forty-three charter members; and the Penns Creek Camp, organized in May, 1918, with thirty charter members.

The Conrad Weiser Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

In the fall of 1897 a group of patriotically-minded women, proud of their ancestry, and eager to perpetuate the achievements of their forefathers, took steps to organize a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Under the leadership of Mrs. Laura E. R. Schoch, who is regarded the founder of the Selinsgrove Chapter, an application for a charter was filed November 18, 1897. The charter was granted by the National Society in Washington, February 19, 1898. The charter members were Laura E. R. Schoch, Mary Weiser Bergstresser, Emily Alice Byers, Kate M. Schoch Crouse, Annie Knight Gregory, A. Maude Schoch Follmer, Annie Richter North, Hannah Rhoads Pine, Harriet Richter, Eva K. Schoch, Lottie Pine Voelker, and Lulu Schoch Wagenseller. The organization was known as the Conrad Weiser Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Its first officers were Laura E. R. Schoch, regent; Mary W. Bergstresser, vice regent; Eva K. Schoch, secretary; Annie Richter Noeble, registrar; Annie Knight Gregory, treasurer; and Emily A. Byers, historian. The meetings were held monthly from October through June with the final meeting on Flag Day. In order to become a member, a person had to be a blood relative of a Revolutionary War soldier. It was quite common for members to trace their ancestry back to the American Revolution on a number of different lines. For each ancestor the member was entitled to an extra bar on the pin, the emblem of the D. A. R. organization.

Since the organization is entirely patriotic, philanthropic, historical, and educational, its programs have always been of that character. The Selinsgrove Chapter has to its credit a large number of memorial achievements and educational and philanthropic contributions. In 1900 the chapter began to sponsor an essay contest at Susquehanna University and in the Selinsgrove High School. Prizes of ten and five dollars were offered to the students presenting the best essays on appropriate subjects. The chapter took care of the Old Lutheran Graveyard for ten years (1905-1915) in which are buried the four Revolutionary War soldiers of this community. These soldiers are John George Ulrich (1753-1824), Captain Conrad Weiser (1749-1803), John Adam Fisher (1741-1825), and Peter Hosterman (1746-1805). In 1915 Mrs. Charles Steele of Northumberland presented to the local chapter the plot of ground at the junction of Walnut and West Pine Streets. A large boulder was placed there commemorating the Revolutionary ancestors. The unveiling took place October 9, 1916, under the direction of Mrs. Maude Schoch Follmer, regent. Each Flag Day the

chapter purchased flags and placed them on the graves of the Revolutionary War soldiers.

The Conrad Weiser Chapter has the unique distinction of having had the last living actual Daughter of the American Revolution as one of its charter members. Her name was Mrs. Annie Knight Gregory. She was born March 23, 1843, and died December 16, 1943, a little more than 100 years old. Her father, Richard Knight, who was seventy-eight years old at the time she was born, joined the Revolutionary War army at the age of eleven as a drummer boy in Captain John Beatty's Company, Fifth Pennsylvania Battalion. During the War of 1812 he served as captain in the First Pennsylvania Militia. Upon his return to civic life, he became the proprietor of the Old Stone Tavern at Liverpool. Mrs. Gregory received her education at the Freeburg Academy. She was married to Benjamin Franklin Gregory in 1861, who served as a teller in the First National Bank of Selinsgrove for more than fifty years. Mrs. Gregory served eight years as regent of the local D. A. R. During her entire married life she lived in Selinsgrove. During her latter years, she made her home with a son in Williamsport. She died in the Williamsport Hospital, and is buried in the Union Cemetery at Selinsgrove.

The chapter at the present time has twenty-seven members. Mrs. Eva K. Schoch Schroyer (Mrs. R. Lloyd Schroyer) is the only survivor of the original charter members.

Pennsylvania National Guard Encampment in Monroe Township

In the years immediately preceding World War I, the National Guard of Pennsylvania held four encampments or "camps of instruction" in Monroe Township. The first camp was held in 1912 by the Third Brigade, the second and third camps were held in 1914 by the Third and Fourth Brigades respectively, and the fourth camp was held in 1915 by the Third Brigade. Each camp was composed of a brigade and auxiliary troops. A brigade consisted of three regiments of infantry, and the auxiliary troops were the cavalry and the batteries of artillery, averaging about 3,000 men per camp. The Third Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Charles M. Clement of Sunbury, consisted of the Ninth, Twelfth, and the Thirteenth Infantry Regiments composed of men from Wilkes Barre, Pittston, Plymouth, Nanticoke, Scranton, Easton, Honesdale, Hazleton, Danville, Sunbury, Lewisburg, Milton, Williamsport, Lock Haven, Bellefonte, and Lewistown. The three regimental bands were from Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and Williamsport. The Fourth Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General James B. Corryell of Philadelphia, consisted of the Fourth, Sixth, and Eighth Infantry Regiments composed of men from Allentown, Tamaqua, Pottsville, Mahanoy City, Pine Grove, Lebanon, Reading, Pottstown, Phoenixville, Doylestown, Media, Norristown, West Chester, Chester, Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, Columbia, Bedford, Harrisburg, Carlisle,

Chambersburg, and Huntingdon. The three regimental bands were from Carlisle, Lancaster, and Philadelphia.

All four camps were held on the same site in Monroe Township adjacent to the borough of Selinsgrove, on the north side between the new highway and the old canal bed, and extended from Penn's Creek northward to the first farm buildings. Several weeks prior to the encampment, topographical surveys were made of the camp site and surrounding area by engineers. The watermains, connected with the water system of Selinsgrove at Bridge Street, were laid through the company streets to headquarters and to the auxiliary troops. This work was done under the supervision of Lt. John A. S. Schoch, of Selinsgrove, a member of Company E, Twelfth Regiment, National Guards of Pennsylvania. The camp equipment was shipped by rail from the State Arsenal at Harrisburg, and the local drayman, Irvin B. Romig, delivered it to the camp ground. Advance details of the three regiments arrived to erect the tents, construct the latrines, and to make all needed arrangements for the opening of the camp. The arrival of the troops in Selinsgrove, the detraining of the troops, the forming of the troops alongside the troop-trains, and the marching of the troops to the camp to the martial music of the regimental bands afforded a spectacular sight for the local citizens that could never be forgotten. The railroad company shortened the block system by opening telegraph offices at the west end of the railroad bridge and at the Clifford station. This made it possible for trains to operate close together. Day and night shifting crews helped to keep the regular traffic moving. Some of the empty coaches were taken to Sunbury for cleaning, icing, and inspection while others were stored temporarily at the Clifford station. In the meantime the streets of Selinsgrove were crowded with soldiers and civilians. The rooms of Seibert Hall, the women's dormitory of the university were filled with the families of the officers. Rooms were in demand all over town and the saloons and restaurants were crowded. All necessary precautions were taken to preserve order. The provost guards were on duty in Selinsgrove and Sunbury and all trolley cars carried two armed guards to preserve order. No untoward incident took place. A large Y. M. C. A. canteen was erected at the angle where the old highway turned toward the creek, and did a thriving business.

The camp was formally opened Saturday noon with the raising of the flag in front of the headquarters. Sun-

day was featured with religious services by the regimental chaplains and a review of all the troops. Spectators by the thousand crowded the place. It is said that over 10,000 people visited the camp on Sundays and on the Governor's Day. A gun was fired at sunrise and the brigade flag was raised to mark the beginning of the day; the end of the day was proclaimed by the sunset gun and the lowering of the brigade flag. Each evening in fair weather the regimental bands gave an open-air concert of the best popular and classical music in front of the brigade headquarters, to the great enjoyment of the large crowd of spectators. After the concert, the regimental ambulances returned the wives and children to their rooms in the town and university campus. About 11:00 P. M. taps were sounded in front of brigade headquarters and the camp quieted down for the night. Towards the close of the encampment, the troops went on maneuvers, camping overnight in "pup" tents on the hills toward the north and west of the town. The troops were divided into two armies, the red and the blue, with umpires to rule on the tactics employed by the opposing forces. To give these maneuvers a realistic effect, blank ammunition was used. In 1915 the camp was featured by the presence of two companies of Regular Army troops of the Fifth Infantry that arrived by special train from Fort Ethan Allen, Plattsburgh, New York, and left again by special train for El Paso, Texas, to take part in the Pershing Punitive Expedition into Mexico. Another feature was the presence of the Tenth United States Cavalry, composed of 800 negro soldiers with white officers. They bivouacked overnight in their pup tents at Rolling Green, and the next day passed through the camp and down the Susquehanna Trail enroute to the South.

For the use of the camp kitchen, fire-wood of specified length was contracted for by the cord for delivery to the camp. The State reimbursed the owners of the farms for any damages that were incurred by the troops in their maneuvers as well as for the use of the land for the camp site itself. Upon the termination of the encampment, most of the battery horses were sold by the army officers at public auctions at the local livery stables. The forenoon of the closing day of the camp was marked with great activity. The equipment had to be packed for shipment and the men's baggage had to be transported to the railroad station. At noon the bugle sounded, the flag came down, and all the tents throughout the camp dropped simultaneously to the ground. The policing of

the camp grounds followed. The pieces of paper and all rubbish on the grounds were removed. The water-mains were later taken away by the contractor. At the sound of the bugle, the troops formed in line and marched from the camp through the town to the waiting troop-trains while the side-walks were thronged with people, watching the marching columns of the National Guards.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

On May 22, 1895, an Act of the Assembly was passed authorizing the county commissioners to erect and to maintain a suitable monument at the county-seat of each county in memory of the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War. The act provided that when fifty citizens petition the Court of Quarter Sessions of the county for the erection of such a monument, and when the petition receives the approval of two successive Grand Juries and the court, then the commissioners shall be authorized to erect such a monument. This Act of the Assembly was amended April 3, 1903, providing that in counties with a population of over 500,000 and less than 1,000,000, the petitioners may request the erection of a Memorial Hall, and if approved in like manner, the County Commissioners shall be authorized to erect such a memorial at the county-seat. These provisions of the law need to be stated here in order to understand the controversy that developed in the effort to perpetuate the memory of the Snyder County soldiers and sailors of the Great Rebellion, through some suitable monument or memorial at the county-seat.

The movement to erect a monument or memorial got under way during the latter part of the year 1903. Early in the following year, it was agreed to have an advisory committee of two persons appointed by the different G. A. R. Posts of the county to counsel with the County Commissioners in the building of a monument or memorial, particularly so in respect to location, kind, and design. Practically from the very beginning, there was disagreement between the county commissioners and the G. A. R. committee with respect to design and location. The county commissioners wanted a shaft of Barre granite because it was most suitable and most substantial. They also hesitated to proceed in the erection of a monument because of the heavy debt, but they finally yielded to the petition and to public pressure. The commissioners also felt that a monument would be more durable than a memorial built of sandstone. In addition they were quite certain that a memorial would be unlawful under the

act of 1903 since memorials could be erected only in counties of 500,000 population and over, and the State Supreme Court had ruled that a memorial is not a monument. Even though a memorial would be built of granite, its cost would be far in excess of the money appropriated for the purpose.

The choice of the commissioners met with the disapproval of the G. A. R. Posts on the grounds that they wanted a memorial instead of a shaft. The G. A. R. design called for a memorial eighteen feet square and forty-eight feet high with an inside room whose sides would be lined in marble and would contain the names of all Snyder County soldiers and sailors who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the War with Mexico, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. The estimated cost was \$10,000, but the Grand Jury never approved any expenditures for this purpose in excess of \$8,000. Many locations were under consideration. The County Commissioners, Jonathan Reichenbach, Harrison Moyer, and Henry M. Derk, petitioned the Middleburg Borough Council repeatedly for permission to erect the monument in front of the courthouse or on the public square, but they never could get the approval of the council. It was then agreed to locate the monument on a plot of ground adjoining the county jail, but this location for some reason was later revoked by the county commissioners. Then the commissioners selected a site in the French Flats preferred by the G. A. R. committee, but this site was later rejected for various reasons. Evidently by this time, irreconcilable differences had arisen between the G. A. R. committee and the County Commissioners with reference to both the design and the location. The commissioners finally purchased a lot fronting Market Street from John A. Motz for \$200 and began the erection of the monument there. The cost of the monument itself was \$7,800. This location was undoubtedly not a very conspicuous spot in the borough, but it was probably the best obtainable under the circumstances. The county commissioners consistently contended they were responsible for the design of the monument but not for the location.

Today on the banks of Stump's Run stands a large soldiers' and sailors' monument, erected by the county commissioners in memory of the soldiers and sailors who fought in the Great Rebellion. The monument is a beautiful shaft of light Barre granite. A life-sized figure of a standard bearer surmounts the top, and similar figures

of a soldier and sailor on the side of the shaft face east and west. On the front of the monument is a scroll containing a fitting inscription in memory of the men and the various regiments to which they belonged, and the names of the battles in which they participated in the war between the states.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial

The erection of the monument did not end the troubles of the county commissioners. A bitter controversy ensued resulting in the county auditors surcharging the county commissioners the sum of \$1250 on the ground that the price of the monument was excessive. In the meantime the G. A. R. Posts proceeded to build a memorial, more to their liking than the monument, on the French Flats near the Emanuel Lutheran Church. The expenses were met by popular subscriptions. The memorial was dedicated September 10, 1908, and is known as the Snyder County Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial. The memorial is twenty-two by thirty feet in size and is built of rock granite and granite brick. The inside walls are lined with marble. On the south wall are cut the names of the officers and men of Company G, 147th Regiment, P. V. I., First Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth and Twentieth Army Corps. Underneath is mentioned Company H with the names of two corporals and two privates. Over the door to the right are cut the words Spanish-American War (1898-1902), Assistant Surgeon, W. H. Ulsh, U. S. N.

There are six memorial art windows in the building. Three windows are on the east side, the first one being the infantry window represented by a stack of muskets; the center window contains a portrait of Lincoln; and the third window is the artillery window represented by a piece of artillery. On the west side, the first window is the cavalry window; the center window contains a bust of Governor Curtin with the words, — "Andrew Gregg Curtin, the War Governor of Pennsylvania"; and the third window represents the marine branch of the service. Two mounted cannon were placed on each side of the entrance to the memorial. The architect was John F. Stetler who also donated the plot of land on which the memorial is located.

The erection of the second war memorial resulted from the disagreement between the G. A. R. Posts and the county commissioners. The veterans of the Civil War deserve all the reverence and recognition that subsequent generations can give them for their services in the preser-

vation of the Union. However, it does seem unfortunate that there existed at the time such a pronounced disagreement of viewpoints among those directly charged with the responsibility of erecting the monument or memorial that a unity of effort proved simply out of the question. The outcome was that each party pursued its own way to achieve the same end, the one to erect a monument and the other to build a memorial, to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of the Great Civil War.

With the passing years, the structure of the memorial deteriorated, the flags and war relics disappeared from the building, and general neglect of the memorial became very evident. The G. A. R. Posts had ceased to exist and no substitute assumed the responsibility. Something needed to be done if the memorial was to be preserved. At a public meeting in the courthouse in Middleburg, September 23, 1946, the Snyder County Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Association, incorporated September 3, 1908, was re-organized. The primary function of the organization was to preserve, care for, and maintain the memorial. The fifteen persons present were received into membership, since the original charter did not limit membership to persons belonging to military organizations. Invitations were extended to the citizens of the county to become affiliated with the organization. Among those present was Henry Stetler of Middleburg, the only surviving member of the original association.

Officers for the year 1947 were elected and a new constitution was adopted. The officers were G. George Luck, president; Edgar L. Swartzlander, vice-president; Arthur R. Tyson, secretary-treasurer; and Raymond Tharp, Harvey Steffen, and Warren Baker, trustees. Certain committees were appointed, one to make the necessary repairs and one to compile a complete list of the veterans from the county in the nation's wars. Raymond Tharp, a local contractor, made the needed repairs and improvements to the building and placed new panels in it containing the names of all the veterans. The officers for the year 1948 are, — Edgar L. Swartzlander, president; Brian Kauffman, vice-president; John Charles, secretary-treasurer; and Raymond Tharp, Harvey Steffen, and Warren Baker, trustees.

CHAPTER 32

Writers and Publishers

The writer does the most who gives his reader the most knowledge and takes from him the least time.

Sydney Smith

New Berlin as a Publishing Center Years Ago

In a large portion of Pennsylvania the German Language was very extensively spoken during the first half of the nineteenth century. In consequence many of the publishing houses located in Philadelphia, Lancaster, Reading, and Harrisburg, associated with the church and sects of this area, printed a large number of religious periodicals and books in the German Language in order to meet the reading needs of the people. The great religious awakening which took place at the close of the eighteenth century had as one of its leaders Jacob Albright (1759-1808) who felt called upon to work among the Pennsylvania German-speaking people, and who thus became the founder of what is known as "Die Geistliche Gemeinschaft" of the Evangelical Association. The Association very early in its history sensed the importance of making available for these German-speaking people a religious literature in the form of books, pamphlets, and periodicals that would provide the necessary spiritual nurture and keep them well informed with respect to the purpose and program of the church.

To meet this particular need, the Evangelical Association established its publishing house in New Berlin largely through the influence of John Dreisbach, one of the members of the Association. John Dreisbach went to Philadelphia in 1815 on a preaching mission, and then purchased at his own expense a small printing press and presented it to the Association. The official publishing interest of the church was launched at a meeting of the Conference in 1816, held in the Eyer Barn at Winfield. Later in the same year, provision was made for a building to house the publishing business. This building, twenty by twenty-six feet and one and one-half stories high, was erected next to the Evangelical Church building on Water Street, New Berlin, Pennsylvania. A member of the Evangelical Association by the name of George Miller was employed as the printer. This man continued in the employ of the Evangelical Association so long as the publishing house remained in New Berlin, and printed most of the periodicals, pamphlets, and books that came from the press during the period from 1815 to 1854. Most of the books were printed in the German Language and were

decidedly religious in nature. The growth and development of this publishing house at New Berlin may be divided into three more or less distinct periods. The first period extended from 1815 to 1825 during which time the church owned and operated its own printing press but not with great success; the second period extended from 1825 to 1836 when the church had the printing done by jobbers; and the third period extended from 1836 to 1854 when the church again owned and operated its own printing press. During this last period the publishing house met with much success.

In 1817 were published "Das Geistliche Saitenspiel" (Spiritual Psalmody), and a second edition of the Church Discipline. In 1818 three books came from the press, one of which was a small collection of new and old hymns entitled "Die Geistliche Viole", edited by John Dreisbach and Henry Niebel. During the first period of its existence (1815-1825) a total of ten books and two reprints were published; during the second period (1825-1836) eleven new books and three reprints were published; and during the third period (1836-1854) at least forty-seven new books and pamphlets were printed, half of which were Sunday School books. Some thirty reprints also were issued. Professor Albright* states that at least sixty-seven books and pamphlets, some twenty reprints, and two newspapers were published by the Association during the existence of the publishing house at New Berlin. "Der Christliche Botschafter" is considered the first paper of the "Die Evangelische Gemeinschaft" and was the first German religious paper in America. An English religious weekly paper called the Evangelical Messenger was first published in 1848 "to meet the needs of a rapidly increasing English portion of the church". In 1832 the first book in English called CHURCH DISCIPLINE was printed. Early in 1854 the publishing house in New Berlin was moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in order to have the advantages of a larger business center, railroad facilities, and a more central location with respect to the churches of the Evangelical Association. With the removal of the publishing house from New Berlin, our interest in it from the standpoint of local history naturally terminates.

Writers and Publishers Years Ago

Mrs. Tillie Pierce Alleman

Mrs. Tillie Pierce Alleman (1848-1914), the wife of Attorney Horace P. Alleman of Selinsgrove, merits a place among the writers of the

*A History of the Evangelical Church

county. The book on which her reputation as an author rests is the story of a little girl's experience during the Battle of Gettysburg. When the Confederate Army approached Gettysburg, Tillie Pierce was taken, as a measure of safety, to a farm house located on the outskirts of the town. Unexpectedly, this supposed place of safety became the scene of battle, and the house and barn had to be turned into a hospital for the care of the sick and wounded soldiers. As a girl of fifteen, she carried water to the soldiers and aided as best she could the surgeon who operated on the wounded, using the kitchen table in the home for the operating table. The story is interesting and informative and deserves to be read much more widely than it has been.

Reverend Peter Anstadt

Reverend Peter Anstadt (1819-1903) was the author of books and pamphlets, the editor of religious papers, a publisher, and a prominent minister of the Gospel. He was born in Germany and came to America with his parents in 1830, when but ten years old. He was educated at Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary. He served pastorates at Hollidaysburg, Baltimore, Gettysburg, and at Selinsgrove (1860-1863). At various periods, he served on the faculty of Gettysburg College, Missionary Institute, and of the York Collegiate Institute. In 1863 he gave up his pastoral work to become a full-time professor at Missionary Institute, teaching German, Hebrew, Church History, and Church Government.

During his residence in Selinsgrove, he published "Der Lutherische Kirchenbote", a semi-monthly paper which was an unofficial publication of the Lutheran Church of Central Pennsylvania. The paper was printed in the German Language for three years, and then replaced by a paper in the English Language, called the "American Lutheran". Rev. Anstadt probably did not have a printing press of his own, but had the printing done either by "Der Volkesfreund" in Middleburg or by "Der Union Demokrat" in New Berlin. In January, 1865, the Selinsgrove TIMES began to do some printing for him. He printed the catalogue of Missionary Institute for the years 1860 through 1865, the Proceedings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Central Pennsylvania for the years 1860 through 1862. In 1860 he published a book "A Synopsis of Lectures on Natural Theology" by Dr. Henry Ziegler, Professor of Theology, Missionary Institute (1858-1881). The next year he published a second book by Dr. Zeigler entitled "Lectures on Apologetic Theology". In the same year an address delivered at the Susquehanna Female College, February 6, 1861, by Rev. D. D. Focht, was published. In 1865 the catalogue of the Susquehanna Female College came from the press.

Reverend Isaac Gerhart and Others

Rev. Isaac Gerhart (1788-1865), a minister of the Reformed Church in Freeburg from 1813 to 1818, was the co-author with Frederick Eyer of Selinsgrove in 1817 of a book on church music known as the UNION CHORAL HARMONIE. The book provided a brief explanation of the rudiments of vocal music. It was a book of sacred music adapted to the use of Christian churches of every denomination. The selections were printed in both English and German to each tune. It is said that the book proved a great aid in improving the music of church congregations. The book was later revised by Col. Henry C. Eyer, the son of Frederic Eyer, one of the original authors. For about three-fourth of a century, it was extensively used by the German Congregations of Snyder County and of adjoining counties. The reviser, Col. Henry C. Eyer, was a distinguished man of his time,

serving as State Senator from his district for 1843 and 1844. He was a musician and composer of a number of choral compositions of note. Mr. Eyer is well known as the man who changed the square note into the round note, sometimes called the buckwheat note. Rev. Isaac Gerhart was the father of Dr. Emanuel V. Gerhart, one of the most distinguished theologians that the Reformed Church in the United States ever produced. This son was born in Freeburg while the father was serving a pastorate there. He was the author of the "Institutes of the Christian Religion" in two large volumes. Peter Hackenberg, Sr., (1773-1847) was a resident of Freeburg. He was the author of a book in 1838 of 280 pages entitled "Übersicht der Religion" (Perspective of Religion). The book was written in the German Language and was considered a work of real literary merit. Peter Hackenberg is buried in St. Peter's Church Cemetery in Freeburg. George Gundrum, a school teacher of Freeburg, was the author of a spelling book called the "American Interpreter". He was considered one of the best school teachers of his day. He died in 1853 and is buried in the Old Lutheran Cemetery in Selinsgrove. Daniel Dieffenbach, a school teacher of the county and a mathematician of repute, published a religious book of 360 pages in 1840 called the "Victory of Jesus". (Seig Jesus).

Amos Stroh

As far as can be known now, the first book to come from the press within the territory now known as Snyder County was entitled "Der Beynahe ein Christ" (Almost a Christian), published in the German Language in 1830 with the imprint "Selinsgrove Pennsylvanian, Gedruckt bey Amos Stroh". It is a tiny cardboard-bound book now in the possession of the Library of Susquehanna University. The book originally was an English work written by Matthew Mead of London. It was translated from the English into the German by the Rev. Daniel Weiser (1799-1875), a native of Selinsgrove, who was at the time, the pastor of the Reformed Church in Freeburg (1824-1833). He had previously served the Reformed Church in pastorates at Selinsgrove and Adamsburg (Beaver Springs). The translation was recognized as a literary task of great value. It is interesting to note as a matter of genealogy that Rev. Daniel Weiser was the son of Conrad Weiser (1749-1803), and the great-grandson of Conrad Weiser, the Indian Interpreter (1696-1760). His son, Rev. Clement Zwingli Weiser was born in Selinsgrove in 1830. He served as the pastor of the Selinsgrove Reformed Church (1854-1857) and of the Freeburg Reformed Church (1861-1862). He was the author of a life of John Conrad Weiser (1696-1760), his great-great-grandfather.

Our knowledge of Amos Stroh is very limited. One would naturally like to know more about Snyder County's first book publisher. Whether he owned his own printing press or had the book printed by another printer, we do not know. So far as we can tell, this is the one and only book known to have been printed by him. We know that Amos Stroh in 1843 was one of the three auditors of Penn Township, that in 1845 he served as the town clerk, and in 1848 he was the proprietor of the Isle of Que House. Later he was in partnership with Israel Gutelius in publishing the "Post" from 1861 to 1866 when the paper was moved to Middleburg.

Reverend Jacob F. Wampole and Professor Daniel S. Boyer

The Rev. Jacob F. Wampole and Professor Daniel S. Boyer were the authors of a book called the "History of Freeburg Parish". The book gives a rather complete history of the different congregations that comprised that charge. Rev. Wampole was the pastor of the Freeburg charge from 1876 to 1891. He was born near Spring City,

Pennsylvania, June 6, 1833, and was educated at Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was licensed to preach by the Western Pennsylvania Synod and was ordained in 1857. In addition to Freeburg, he served the Shamokin charge at two different periods (1857-1867) and (1891-1906), and the Turbotville charge (1867-1876). He died in Shamokin in 1906.

Professor Daniel S. Boyer was the Superintendent of Schools of Snyder County from 1857 to 1860, and completed the unexpired term of Major William H. Dill (1886-1887). Professor Boyer was born in Freeburg in 1827. He received his education in the subscription schools of his native place and at the classical Institute at Berrysburg. He taught school for a number of years and served as principal of the Freeburg Academy for ten years. Professor Boyer had a deep interest in local history and wrote many articles on that subject for the county newspapers. Among his writings can be mentioned twelve articles on Snyder County History published in the Freeburg COURIER, the Centennial address in Freeburg in 1876, six addresses on agriculture delivered at the Gratz Fair in Dauphin County; and twelve articles on the life of Governor Simon Snyder, published in the Selinsgrove TIMES. He gave the historic address at the unveiling of Governor Snyder's monument in 1885, which was published in the Freeburg NEWS, and translated the sermon from German into English that was preached by the Rev. J. P. Shindel at the funeral of the governor. Professor Boyer died at his home in Freeburg in 1899.

Writers and Publishers in Recent Years

Ammon Monroe Aurand, Sr.

Ammon Monroe Aurand, the owner and manager of the American Publishing Company and the editor of Adamsburg Weekly Herald (1887-1923), was born near Beaver Springs, September 3, 1870. His ancestors came from Germany where as Protestants, they had been subjected to the religious persecutions following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 by Louis XIV. Aurand received only a common school education, and at the early age of sixteen entered upon his life career as a printer and publisher. In 1887 he began publishing the Adamsburg WEEKLY HERALD and continued it until 1923. He also published a number of other papers and journals that had general circulation. His publishing house sold different kinds of books and Bibles through subscription agents in all parts of the country. It is said that his printing and publishing business for a time averaged \$25,000 per year. A book published by Aurand was that well-known volume called "The Devil in the Church" which ran through several editions, and in all upwards of 50,000 copies were sold. Another very popular book of his publication was "Satan in Society". These two volumes may appropriately be called "the best sellers" of fifty years ago in this community. Mr. Aurand is the author and compiler of the HISTORY OF BEAVER SPRINGS AND CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR BOOK (1806-1906).

His son, A. Monroe Aurand, Jr., was born March 8, 1895, and is no less prominent in the printing and publishing business than was his father. In 1909 he became associated with his father in his business. In 1923 the Snyder County WEEKLY HERALD was sold to C. A. Baker of McClure and was consolidated with the McClure PLAINDEALER. Since 1928 the father and son have been operating a large book-store, Harrisburg, specializing not only in second-hand books on Pennsylvania history but also in writing, printing, and publishing books and pamph-

lets on topics of local history pertaining particularly to the Pennsylvania German people. Mr. Aurand, Jr. has written nearly two score books and pamphlets, the latter reaching sales of more than 100,000 copies.

Reverend Dallas C. Baer, D. D.

The Rev. Dallas C. Baer, D. D., was graduated from the College Department of Susquehanna University with the A. B. degree in 1920, and from the School of Theology in 1923 with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. He married Ruth M. Albert, daughter of Dr. Charles H. Albert, Professor of Education, Bloomsburg State Teachers' College. Rev. and Mrs. Baer are the parents of two children. Rev. Baer served as the pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Hughesville, Pennsylvania for four years, and of the Bethany Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, for three years, during which time he attended the Mt. Airy Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and received the Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1932. He became the pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove in February, 1930, and served that congregation for nearly fifteen years. Since September, 1944, he has been the pastor of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He is the author of many books of sermons and sermon lectures, among which are "The Old Gospel for New Times" (two volumes), "The Secret of a Beautiful Life", "Christ is the Gospel" (two volumes), "Windows that Let in the Light", "Living Messages from the Epistles" (two volumes), "Pilate's Questions and Christ's Words", "Light from the Old for a New Order" (two volumes), "The Messages of the Prophets", "Blue Prints for Great Living" (two volumes), and "The Amazing Christ". In recognition of his ability as a preacher and writer, Susquehanna University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity at the annual commencement in 1944.

William Edwin Charles

William Edwin Charles achieved commendable public recognition in the various fields of his vocational endeavors. He was regarded as an excellent teacher, a good business man, a capable newspaper editor, an efficient public servant, a recognized local historian, and a writer of repute in the Pennsylvania German dialect. Edwin Charles was one of Snyder County's prominent citizens. His life was imbued with the spirit of love and devotion for others more than for self only. He was a very popular man, loved and respected by the people of the county. Edwin Charles was born in 1870, the son of Henry F. and Alice Neitz Charles of Union Township. He attended the public schools of his native community. As a boy of twelve he was a mule driver on the Pennsylvania Canal. He was graduated from the Freeburg Academy and from the Williamsport Business College. He taught in the public schools of the county for twenty-five years, and assisted the County Superintendent of Schools in the County Normal School for Teachers for three terms.

While Edwin Charles was undoubtedly best known as a teacher and local historian, he was also engaged in other vocations at various periods of his life. For several years he conducted a grocery business in Akron, Ohio; served as the Register and Recorder of the county from 1909 to 1922; was engaged in the hardware business for some years; carried on a job printing business in partnership with Harry R. Ritter; and served as the editor of the MIDDLEBURG POST from 1928 to 1933. He was an active member of the County Historical Society and was secretary-treasurer of the Canal Boatman's Re-union from its organization in 1900 until his death in 1933. He was an

active member in a number of social service and patriotic organizations and of the Middleburg Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons.

Edwin Charles was deeply interested in local history, the Pennsylvania Canal, Indian lore, and in the customs and traditions of the Pennsylvania German people. He was the author of many articles in these fields. He wrote the "Pennsylvania German Letters" under the pen name of "Onkel Yarrick" that were read and enjoyed by the many readers of THE POST. Edwin Charles and Thomas Harter were intimate friends. With the passing of these two men, the Pennsylvania Germans lost two popular writers.

Edwin Charles died in 1933 at his home in Middleburg of a heart condition. His widow, the former Mellie C. Smith, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benneville Smith, died in 1943. Four daughters — Marian C., Dorothy, Elizabeth, and Marjorie and two sons — John E. and Edwin F. — are the survivors of a family of eleven children.

Lillian Estelle Fisher

One of the most distinguished women born in our county is Miss Lillian Estelle Fisher, now residing in Berkeley, California. She has attained a great reputation as a teacher, scholar, and writer in the field of Latin-American history and government. She has probably written and published more books in this field than any other woman that might be named. Miss Fisher was born in Selinsgrove, May 1, 1891, the daughter of George P. Fisher and Etta R. Siegfried Fisher. She received her elementary and high school education in the public schools of her native place. She was graduated from Susquehanna University in 1912 with the A. B. degree. She received her M. A. degree from the University of Southern California in 1918, and her Ph. D., degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1924. She has had a rich and varied teaching experience on the secondary school and college levels. She taught one year in the high school at Corry, Pennsylvania, and one year in the Normal Institute at Pueblo, Mexico. The following six years she taught in the high schools of California. Her college teaching has been done in Whittier College, the Oklahoma College for Women, Hunter College, and in the Extension Division of the University of California.

In 1929 and 1930 she held a fellowship from the King of Spain for the purpose of carrying on historical research in Spain. She is the author of *Viceregal Administration in the Spanish American Colonies*, the *Intendant System in Spanish America*, and the *Background of the Revolution for Mexican Independence*. She edited and completed Herbert I. Priestley's *Franciscan Exploration in California*, in addition to numerous articles and book reviews. She was lecturer at the Seminar Conference at the George Washington University in 1935; lecturer at the Institute of Inter-American Affairs in Brazil and Argentina in 1940; secretary of the Conference on Latin American History of the American Historical Association 1934-1939; member of the Executive Committee of the Conference on Latin American Relations for the Southwest, 1938-1941; American Association of University Examiner for fellowships in the Southwest, 1935-1942; served on the Board of Governors of the Latin American Organization for Continental Solidarity, 1942; and was a member of the National History Honor Fraternity, National Social Science Honor Society, National Association of Writers and Journalists, and of the American Historical Association.

Charles Adam Fisher

Charles Adam Fisher was born in 1886 on a farm along Middle Creek, midway between Kantz and the Electric Dam, Penn Township,

Snyder County. His parents were Jacob A. and Ella Herrold Fisher, and his grandparents were Adam J. and Barbara Woodling Fisher. His great-great grandfather was John Adam Fisher (1744-1825), a Revolutionary War soldier, who settled in 1774 on land located on the southern portion of the Isle of Que. This land had been purchased by his father, John Jacob Fisher (1720-1803), from the heirs of Conrad Weiser.

Charles Adam Fisher attended the Kantz school from 1892 to 1901. His teachers were William A. Erdley, Michael Baney, and Harry A. Gemberling. Among his schoolmates at the Kantz school may be mentioned Calvin Victor Erdley, now Superintendent of Public Schools of Lewistown; George A. Fisher, consulting chemist for several industrial concerns of Indianapolis; Herrold G. Stetler, dentist of Altoona; Forest C. Romig, veterinarian of Beaver Springs; and Robert A. Mease, County Commissioner of Snyder County. He attended the Selinsgrove High School, the Freeburg Academy, and Susquehanna University. He received the Ph. B. degree from Lebanon University, Lebanon, Ohio, in 1911; the A. B. degree from Yale University in 1915; and the A. M. degree from Susquehanna University in 1929. He continued his studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State College, and George Washington University. Thiel College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration. He alternated going to school and teaching school over a period of years. His professional career covers the rural school, the high school, and university over a period of forty years in the position of teacher, principal, and professor. He served ten years as the head of the Business Administration Department of Susquehanna University (1920-1930) and seventeen years as director of the School of Business of John B. Stetson University (1930-1947).

Dr. Fisher has achieved distinction as a local historian and genealogist. He is the author of Snyder County Pioneers, Abstracts of Snyder County Probate and Orphans Court Records (1772-1855), Early Pennsylvania Births (1675-1875), Early Central Pennsylvania Lineages, Central Pennsylvania Marriages (1700-1896), the History of the Woodling Family, and Michael Fisher (1724-1776) and His Descendants, Dr. Fisher is a member of the Pennsylvania German Society, National Social Science Honor Society, Sons of the American Revolution (twelve ancestors), National Genealogical Society, National Association of Writers and Journalists, Fellow of the Institute of American Genealogy, and a Thirty-Second Degree Mason.

Thomas H. Harter

Thomas H. Harter will always be affectionately remembered by the people of Snyder County as the publisher of the Middleburg POST (1882-1894), and the author of the famous Boonastiel Letters written in the Pennsylvania German dialect, and published weekly in the POST. So great was the interest in these letters that in 1893 they were published in book form in compliance with public demands for them to be put in permanent form. So popular has been the book that three successive editions have been printed since then. These letters dealt in a most interesting fashion with the pleasingly old-fashioned modes of living of the Pennsylvania German people, their peculiar customs and traditions, their folklore and story, and their quaint philosophy of life, as well as with the more common social injustices and corrupt political practices of the times. Often the descriptions were ridiculously exaggerated or distorted, but they never carried any sting of reproach nor provided any occasion for offense for anybody. These weekly letters were always sparkling with wit and humor and invariably provided a zest or an added interest for the reader. The Boonastiel

was usually the first thing read in the POST. Written in the simple dialect of the common people, they contained a flavor that was difficult to match in any literature. Anyone not familiar with the dialect cannot fully appreciate the homely wisdom that poured forth weekly from the lips of Boonastiel. An English translation falls far short of providing the same meaning and an equivalent amount of humor.

The story of how he began to write the Boonastiel letters is very interesting and informative. During the early years of his work as a newspaper editor, Mr. Harter developed a growing dislike for the political corruption and the immoral social practices of his day. He felt that something ought to be done to correct them, but was fearful that caustic editorials might further jeopardize the already limited returns of his paper. While in this quandary as to what ought to be done, he accompanied his brother on a visit to Gottlieb Boonastiel, an old tin peddler who traveled about the countryside riding an old humpbacked horse, and who was then in his last illness. Listening to Boonastiel's story of social injustice and political corruption, Harter conceived the idea that right here was the solution to his problem. He decided to write letters in the dialect of his people under the assumed name of the old tin peddler that would be in the nature of a burlesque treatment of the conditions he believed deserved criticism. He hoped to be able to reform conditions by means of these letters in the form of a travesty on human nature and its behavior. He returned to his office and wrote a letter in the Pennsylvania German dialect addressing himself as "Liever Kernel Harder" (Dear Colonel Harter) and signing the name Boonastiel. This letter appeared in the issue of the POST, July 19, 1888; and attracted so much attention that the letters were continued weekly as a "Brief Fum Hawsa Barrick" (Letter from Rabbit Mountain). The attacks on certain personalities, customs, and conditions were often so thinly-veiled that it was imperative that the writer conceal his identity. Some two years elapsed before his identity became known. By that time the clever humor and the inbred philosophy of Gottlieb Boonastiel had so endeared him to an ever-increasing number of readers that the discontinuance of the letters would have courted financial disaster for the POST. Many subscribers threatened to cancel their subscriptions if Boonastiel would no longer make his appearance. Harter had by this time accomplished his purpose. The paper was now on a sound financial basis, its editor was actively engaged in "correcting the wrong and strengthening the right", and was contributing his mite toward popularizing and perpetuating the dialect of his people. Thomas H. Harter can be definitely regarded the outstanding preserver and perpetuator of the Pennsylvania German dialect. Harter did much to bring about a uniform system of spelling the words of the dialect, since he was probably the first to adopt a purely phonetic system of spelling for it. Harter had a keen insight into human nature, a firm belief in what he believed was right, and a robust honesty that challenged the finest and the best in people. Every reader of the Boonastiel Letters must concur in the truthfulness of this statement.

These Boonastiel letters were continued during his years at Midsburg and for some time while living in Bellefonte. They were discontinued because he had too many interests already, and his supply of subject-matter had become exhausted. It is stated that during the time he learned the printer's trade at Centre Hall, he read all of Shakespeare to his mother, translating it into the dialect for her as he read. As the reading of a play was concluded, his mother would invariably ask, "But Tommy, are these things so?" to which he would invariably reply, "Well mother, the book says so." In this anecdote lies the secret of so much of Shakespeare being found in the Boonastiel

letters. At the head of each letter from Hawsa Barrick was a picture of Boonastiel sitting with both hands in his pockets, legs crossed, his trousers torn, an old hat on his head, and his toes showing through holes in both of his shoes. It is said that this picture of Boonastiel was originally a cut from an advertisement that attracted Harter's attention in the Liverpool Pennsylvania SUN. Harter was given permission to use the cut.

It is to be expected that the readers of Boonastiel wish to know something of the life of the author of these letters. Thomas H. Harter came from good old Pennsylvania German stock and hence possessed a first-hand knowledge of these people. Harter was born May 28, 1854, on a farm near Aaronsburg, Center County. His grandparents were pioneer settlers in the lower part of Penn's Valley, now Haines Township, about the year 1800. This was at a time when the people had to live the hard life of the wilderness. The father was born on the old homestead in 1812 and lived there until his death in 1885. The father was a Democrat in politics and a Lutheran in his religious faith. He had twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eleventh child.

Thomas H. Harter was educated in a community where the people took a rather disparaging attitude toward schooling beyond the elementary grades. Up to the age of twelve, Thomas H. Harter could neither speak nor understand the English language. He attended school until he was seventeen years old. He then went to Smithville, Ohio, to learn the tanner's trade with his brother. In the meantime he attended a Normal School for two terms at that place. In 1872 he returned to his native county to learn the printer's trade from his brother-in-law, the Hon. Fred Kurtz of the CENTRE HALL REPORTER. He also attended the Penn Hall Academy, located one mile east of Spring Mills. This completed Thomas H. Harter's formal education. In 1876 he married Mary Izora Musser of Hartleton, Union County. In the same year he purchased a weekly newspaper in Nevada, Ohio. This paper at first had a very small circulation, but under Harter's management it increased its circulation to such a degree that it began to operate on a paying basis. In 1882 he sold this newspaper and purchased the Middleburg POST. He soon changed this paper from a rather commonplace rural newspaper with a small list of subscribers to a rural newspaper of outstanding merit with a large circulation. In 1894 Harter purchased the Keystone Gazette, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, and continued as its owner and publisher until January 1, 1932, when he retired from the active editorship and turned it over to his nephew and grandson, Charles F. Mensch and Charles A. Mensch.

During his early years as the editor of the KEYSTONE GAZETTE, Mr. Harter was a warm political friend of Governor Daniel Hastings (1895-1899), and a versatile mouthpiece for the administration. In 1912 he became postmaster of Bellefonte and served in this office until 1919. He also served as a member of the State Board of Fish Commissioners for about ten years. He was a loyal member of the Presbyterian Church, a 32nd degree Mason, an ardent Republican, and a member of the Nittany Rod and Gun Club (now the Nittany Country Club). He died at his home in Bellefonte, May 31, 1933, after a brief illness resulting from falling down a stairway in his home. He was buried in the family plot at Aaronsburg. Two tributes to his memory deserve to be recorded:

He chose a small field and made himself master of it. Throughout this whole section of the country, Tom Harter's word was law, and his example was followed in so far as possible by all the editors of small papers. He is the last

perfect exponent of the personal school of journalism.

Marion S. Schoch, Editor of the Selinsgrove TIMES

Kindly, genial, a loyal friend, God never made a finer man than rare Tom Harter. In his retirement he will continue to exercise his power for good, and as long as he lives, conditions will be better. He was a vintage product, and may he in his well-earned retirement enjoy for many years the benefits and returns of a life spent in the welfare and betterment of his fellow-Pennsylvanians.

Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, U. S. Minister to Bulgaria at the time of Harter's retirement.

William M. Schnure

No account of writers and publishers of Snyder County would be complete without mention of William M. Schnure, secretary of the Snyder County Historical Society for many years and compiler of the Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, Chronology, Volume I (1700-1850) and Volume II. (1851-1920). These two volumes constitute a mine of chronological data covering a period of over 200 years of history of the local community, the state, and the nation. In the preparation of "The Story of Snyder County", the Selinsgrove Chronology proved invaluable in determining names, dates, and events that otherwise would have been a matter of conjecture or would have been wholly unknown.

Marion Schnure Schoch

Marion Schnure Schoch (1886-1946), editor and publisher of the Selinsgrove TIMES-TRIBUNE, and a writer of no mean ability, was born in Selinsgrove, the son of H. Harvey and Emma Catherine Schoch. He was graduated from Susquehanna University in 1906, and immediately entered the newspaper work on the news staff of the Philadelphia NORTH AMERICAN, then the leading progressive newspaper in the United States. In 1910 he became the owner and editor of the Selinsgrove TIMES. In 1944 he acquired possession of the Snyder County TRIBUNE and began to publish the two merged newspapers under the name of the Selinsgrove TIMES-TRIBUNE. In 1913 he became the postmaster of Selinsgrove and served in that capacity during the Wilson Administrations and again in 1935, during the Roosevelt Administrations. Upon the death of Roscoe C. North, he acceded to the presidency of the First National Bank of Selinsgrove, performing the three-fold duties of editor, postmaster, and banker. He also served as the president of the Selinsgrove Building and Loan Association.

Marion S. Schoch was a public spirited citizen, deeply interested in the welfare and progress of his own home town and community. He shared much of the responsibility for the establishment of the Snyder County Agricultural Extension Association. His news column, the Pepper Box, presented his views weekly on public questions in a fearless and outspoken manner. He was well-informed in matters of local history, and read many excellent papers before the Snyder County Historical Society. While identified with the Democratic Party, he did not use his paper to serve a mere political end or purpose, but for the common good. The Selinsgrove TIMES-TRIBUNE under his management enjoyed a wide circulation throughout the county because of its news value. It featured certain trends in newspaper journalism that appealed greatly to its many subscribers. In addition to publishing the weekly newspaper, the TIMES-TRIBUNE carried on a limited amount of work in book publishing and printing since 1865 when it did the printing for the Rev. Peter Anstadt, a prominent author, educator, and publisher of books.

Agnes Selin Schoch

Agnes Selin Schoch, the sister of Marion Schnure Schoch, is no less known as a writer. She received her academic education at Stuart Hall, Staunton, Virginia, and her professional work at the Jefferson Hospital Training School for Nurses in Philadelphia, graduating in the class of 1922. She acquired prominence as a writer largely through her "Yesteryears" column published in the Selinsgrove TIMES-TRIBUNE since 1928. Her numerous articles in this column cover biography, local history, travel, tradition, and many of the legends associated with Central Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna River Valley. Her stories are always interestingly written and are eagerly read by many people. She has been prominently identified for many years with the Snyder County Historical Society as a research historian and author of numerous papers that she read before that body. In January, 1947, she assumed the work of the president and publisher of the Selinsgrove TIMES-TRIBUNE as the successor to her brother because of his untimely death. She has demonstrated her editorial and managerial abilities by keeping the paper on the same high grade of efficiency and general interest that it has enjoyed over many years.

George W. Wagenseller

George Washington Wagenseller* was born April 27, 1868, in Penn Township along Middle Creek, two miles south of Selinsgrove. He spent his boyhood days on several different farms in the vicinity of Selinsgrove which were occupied by his father as a tenant farmer. He attended the one-room rural school at Kantz, and later the school on the Isle of Que. In course of time the Wagenseller family moved to North Market Street, Selinsgrove, then known as Sweet Hope, and young Wagenseller attended the borough schools. He enrolled in Missionary Institute, March, 1887, and was graduated two years later. In the winter of 1889-1890, he taught school at Cowan, Union County for thirty-five dollars per month. In 1890 he enrolled at Bucknell University and was graduated in June, 1892. His total expenses for the two years at Bucknell were \$705.44. As a member of the National Guards of Pennsylvania, he spent fifteen days on the hills around Homestead in 1892 in an effort to maintain order during the strikes by the steel-workers of that city. He then taught the languages and sciences for a short time in Clark's Academy, Coatesville, Pennsylvania; taught a Normal School in Clearfield County for the preparation of teachers; and served as principal of the Bloomfield Academy, New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania.

It was at this time that Wagenseller decided to make printing and publishing his life work, and in 1894 he purchased the Middleburg POST from Thomas H. Harter and continued its publication until 1928. In 1898 he helped to organize the Snyder County Historical Society. This was done in a day when only a handful of men was interested in local history. A few meetings were held and a room in the courthouse was secured from the county commissioners for the use of the society. The work was practically abandoned for a period of about fifteen years for lack of interest and support. A few persons like George W. Wagenseller, Edwin Charles, and William M. Schnure continued their labor of love during these inactive years by gathering books, manuscripts, and old newspapers, and placing them in the Historical Society room in the courthouse. Finally in 1913 interest in some way was revived largely through the untiring efforts of these men, and meetings began to be held again. It was through Wagenseller's efforts that the County Historical Society secured a set of the PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES.

*Personal Recollections of a Half-Century

George W. Wagenseller was actively interested in numerous business enterprises in Snyder County. Due recognition for these contributions has been given elsewhere. Beyond a doubt, Wagenseller's biggest contribution to Snyder County has been in the field of local history, and he rendered these services in a day and age when they were little appreciated. There is no gainsaying that had it not been for the far-sightedness of George W. Wagenseller much more of our local history would have become forever lost. He preserved for future generations, through the files of the Middleburg POST and through his books, knowledge of local events that prove invaluable to the historians. Among his publications may be mentioned: "The History of the Wagenseller Family in America", "Snyder County Marriages", "Snyder County Tombstone Inscriptions", "Theory and Practice of Advertising", "Snyder County Annals", and the "Personal Recollections of a Half-Century".

Selected Readings

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Harter

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Robacker, Earl F., Pennsylvania German Literature
(1683-1942)

Wagenseller, George W., Recollections of a Half Century

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Society Proceedings—Vols. 13-15

Wood, Ralph, The Pennsylvania Germans

CHAPTER 33

Business Men, Newspaper Editors, Public Officials, and Political Leaders

Heaven is not gained at a single bound;
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round.

Josiah Gilbert Holland

The selection of certain people of the county as having attained some prominence must by no means be interpreted to include all that may deserve to be mentioned. Undoubtedly more persons along similar or different lines of achievement could have been included with equal propriety and justice. Since space made it imperative to limit the number, choice had to be made. Those listed were chosen on the basis of their being well-known throughout the county and even beyond its boundary lines for their accomplishments in their fields of activity.

James K. Davis, Jr.

The father, James K. Davis, Sr., (1779-1847) was a native of Virginia, born near Winchester. He was married to Agnes Selin, the daughter of Anthony Selin who had served in the Revolutionary War, was the founder of Selinsgrove, and the brother-in-law of Governor Simon Snyder. Seven children were born to this union, among whom were a son, James K. Davis, Jr., (1815-1894); a daughter, Mary, married to Colonel Henry C. Eyer; and another daughter, Cordelia, married to George Schnure. James K. Davis, Jr., the subject of our sketch, a prominent business man and banker of Selinsgrove, was born November 22, 1815, in Chapman Township, Snyder County. He received a very limited education, attending a district school for about two months in a year. He remained at home until he reached maturity, assisting his father who was engaged in the hotel business, doing work such as that of a stable boy and that which a generally useful person would do in the homestead. He frequently stated that the first money he ever acquired was earned by blacking boots.

Upon leaving home he worked in Harrisburg as a clerk for a stage coach line that operated between that city and Williamsport. Upon his return to his native community, he worked in the post office and later became the postmaster. He also clerked in the general store of George Schnure. In 1845 he entered into partnership with George Schnure under the name of Davis and Schnure. This firm conducted not alone a general store business, but also carried on a large grain and shipping business. He must have been very economical in his habits, since by the time of his marriage in 1848 he had already saved about \$600. He continued to be thrifty and economical all through his life and accumulated quite a fortune. He was generally known as a very rich man. In 1858 the store and grain business was sold to Charles S. Davis (half-brother to James K. Davis, Jr.) and Louis R. Hummel, later postmaster of Selinsgrove.

James K. Davis, Jr., was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Selinsgrove in 1864, and served as president for about five years, (1889-1894), when he relinquished the position on account of his health. At first he was a member of the Democratic Party

but when the Civil War began, he became an active and influential member of the Republican Party. He served as a United States deputy provost marshal for Snyder County in 1864 and 1865; he was a member of the board of revenue commissioners of Pennsylvania in 1859 and 1860, and he served as postmaster of Selinsgrove for four years.

"Colonel" Henry C. Eyer

One of the more illustrious residents of Selinsgrove during the middle half of the nineteenth century was "Colonel" Henry C. Eyer. One can scarcely read of any undertaking for the good of the community with which Henry C. Eyer was not associated. His main interest in life at first was agriculture, but the last thirty years of his life he devoted to the service of the public, and lived in Selinsgrove in a beautiful residence located on the site of the present post office building. Mr. Eyer was a man of considerable means, was interested in public affairs, was liberal to a fault in his contributions to charity and the common good, and continually labored to raise the educational and cultural level of the people of his community. He had a commanding appearance, was over six feet in height, wore a frock-coat, and always carried a gold-headed cane. He had a peaceful disposition that was constantly employed to attain and to maintain peace and good will among his friends and neighbors. He was a constant promoter of everything good and useful in the community, and as such was prominently identified with the life of Selinsgrove and Penn Township. In the estimation of the general public, Henry C. Eyer was one of the most prominent citizens of Selinsgrove.

Henry C. Eyer was born in Myerstown, Lebanon County, June 6, 1797. When he was still a child his parents moved to Selinsgrove. He had two great handicaps in his life. The one came from a broken hip resulting from a fall from a farm wagon that made him a cripple for life, and the other was cancer of the face which ultimately led to his death, August 3, 1879. He was married to Mary Olivia Davis, the daughter of James K. Davis, Sr., who was a descendant of Major Anthony Selin, the founder of Selinsgrove, and the aunt of Captain Charles S. Davis of Company G, 147th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. While the Eyer people had no children, they left behind a large and valuable estate and wholesome memories that are still fresh in the minds of many people. Mr. and Mrs. Eyer were leading members of Trinity Lutheran Church. The house in which they lived was palatial for a town of the size of Selinsgrove. It was built of pressed brick, had white marble trimmings, a marble door stop, and double-doors in front with silver knobs. The inside was capacious and richly furnished for that day. Mr. and Mrs. Eyer entertained lavishly. The people from a distance who were entertained in the Eyer home were often men of great prominence such as James Buchanan, later President of the United States, Andrew G. Curtin, governor of Pennsylvania, and Simon Cameron, Secretary of War in Lincoln's cabinet.

Mr. Eyer was a Democrat in politics and quite naturally was somewhat sympathetic to the southern cause, but was by no means so blunt and outspoken as was Franklin Weirick, the editor of the TIMES. He was completely loyal to the North and gave his time and substance in support of the army and the administration. In 1839 he received the Democratic nomination of State Senator in the Eighth District composed of Union, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, and Huntingdon Counties. He was defeated at the polls through the fraudulent voting in a certain township of the district, his opponent having received more votes than there were voters in the township. Governor David R. Porter

and others urged Eyer to contest the election, but he refused to do so. In 1842 he was again nominated and that time was elected, serving the district in 1843 and 1844. Later he was nominated for Congress in the district composed of Snyder, Dauphin, Lebanon, and portions of Northumberland County. He was defeated by the Honorable John C. Kunkel of Harrisburg, the Whig candidate. As a Democrat, he was unable to overcome the large majority vote of the Whig party.

He was the author of a music book that was used very extensively in different sections of the country. The royalty of this book afforded him a considerable income. He was a composer of music and an accomplished musician. Mr. and Mrs. Eyer attended musical concerts in Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. He had prominent musicians come to Selinsgrove, probably the most outstanding being "Blind Tom" and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. As a musician he is undoubtedly best remembered for having changed the square note into the round note which is sometimes called the buckwheat note. He was also prominently identified with the founding of the Susquehanna Female College. Before there were banks in Selinsgrove, he served as a director of the Northumberland and Danville banks. Later he was active in the organization of the First National Bank of his own home town. Henry C. Eyer's life was full of good deeds that left the world better than he found it.

Ira T. Fiss

The Honorable Ira T. Fiss was born in Shamokin Dam, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, November 7, 1888. As a boy he attended the public schools of his native place. Later he attended the Bucknell Academy and Susquehanna University. His business interest is that of a general contractor. When Shamokin Dam was incorporated as a borough in 1927, Fiss was elected the first burgess and was re-elected for a second term. He is prominent in church affairs, being a member of the St. Matthews Lutheran Church of Shamokin Dam, and served as the superintendent of the Sunday School for forty-one years, voluntarily retiring from this position in 1945 because of the pressure of too many other duties. Mr. Fiss is an active member of the State Grange, the Masonic Lodge and Consistory, and served as the State President of the Patriotic Order Sons of America. He was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1936, and was re-elected in 1938, 1940, 1942, 1944, and 1946. He served six terms in the House of Representatives and two terms as Speaker of the House*. For the representative of a small county like Snyder County, to be elected Speaker of the House, and to be re-elected for a second term, is a great credit to the representative and an honor to the county. Mr. Fiss was the third Speaker of the House coming from Snyder County. Simon Snyder served as Speaker (1802-1808), and Ner Middleswarth served as Speaker, first in 1828 and again in 1836.

Mr. Fiss demonstrated himself one of the ablest and most respected Speakers of the House of Representatives that the state has ever had. The position of presiding officer of a legislative assembly is one that tries the patience and tests the ability of a man to the utmost, but Speaker Fiss succeeded in keeping a friendly hand over his own party members and in winning and holding the confidence and respect of the opposition party members. Mr. Fiss was chairman for his second term of the Joint State Government Commission com-

*Only two men had the honor of serving more than two terms as Speaker of the House of Representatives. These were two Philadelphians, — Henry K. Boyer, who served in the sessions of 1887, 1889, and 1897, and Henry F. Walton, who served in the sessions of 1895, 1903, and 1905.

posed of thirteen members from the House and thirteen members of the Senate and numerous sub-committees. The duty of the committee was to make a study of state laws, to note how they are functioning, and to suggest improvements that might be beneficial to the state. He was also a member of the General State Authority Commission and the Potomac River Basin Commission, and subsequently member of the State Council of Defense.

George Kremer

There are some reasons for believing that George Kremer must have been a rather colorful figure during the years he was in public life. Around him have grown anecdotes whose historical authenticity has been affirmed and denied, questioned and unquestioned, settled and unsettled, to the satisfaction of nobody. The fact remains that George Kremer played a rather prominent part in the early history of the territory now known as Union and Snyder Counties. To understand this man, one has to observe him in the light of a local statesman possessed of a national reputation during a short period of time in the nation's history.

George Kremer was born in Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, November 21, 1775. His father, Jacob Kremer, and an uncle, Peter Shuter, came from Germany where the latter had served in the army for a number of years. As a boy he worked in his uncle's store in Middletown. In 1792, at the age of seventeen, he came to Selinsgrove where he was employed by his uncle, Simon Snyder, afterwards governor of Pennsylvania, who had a grist mill, a store, farm, and a warehouse. Another nephew by the name of Daniel Double of York made his home with Simon Snyder. After working for Simon Snyder for about fourteen years, Kremer went to Derrstown (Lewisburg) and engaged in the mercantile business for himself, and continued in it until 1827. Daniel Double soon followed Kremer, and continued to have his home with him at Lewisburg and later at Swineford. George Kremer served in the State Legislature for the two terms in 1812 and 1813. He was a candidate for Congress in 1816, but was defeated. In 1822 he became a candidate again and was elected. He was re-elected in 1824 and 1826, thus serving three successive terms in the National House of Representatives, serving in the 18th, 19th, and 20th Congresses (1823-1829). The Congressional District was the old Union and Northumberland District of Pennsylvania.

During his first terms, George Kremer became involved in a controversy which attracted national attention as the "bargain and sale" episode. The candidates for the presidency in 1824 were John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, and William H. Crawford. Since none of the candidates received a majority vote, the election was thrown into the House of Representatives, and resulted in the choice of Adams for the presidency. The controversy gained momentum when President Adams appointed Henry Clay the Secretary of State in his cabinet. This choice for the chief cabinet position appeared to some, and particularly to Kremer, as a political deal, a "bargain and sale" enterprise, in which Clay as the Speaker of the House, in casting his vote to break a tie, was accused of throwing the votes of the Kentucky delegation in the House to Adams in order to defeat Jackson, and for which as a political reward, Clay received the chief cabinet position. With the details of this controversy we need not concern ourselves here. The matter was finally dropped because Kremer found himself deserted by his supporters and could not prove his accusations.

Before Kremer retired from Congress in 1829, he had purchased about 300 acres of land in Franklin Township near Middleburg, and Kremer thought these already had sufficient government for their purposes. This attack on the integrity of the Michigan people compelled

then moved there from Lewisburg in 1827. George Kremer continued to live in an old brick house on his farm until his death, September 10, 1854, at the age of seventy-nine years. Some years after his death, the present brick house was erected. His widow died in the old homestead in 1880. George Kremer had married in 1811 Catherine Evans, the only daughter of Captain Frederick Evans, a prominent man of his day. Kremer had two daughters, one of whom was married to the Reverend Thomas Bower, the other was married to Samuel O. Evans, Delaware Township, Juniata County. Kremer and his wife; Captain Evans, the father-in-law, Daniel Double, and other members of the family were buried in a private family plot on the farm just across the road from his homestead. In June 27, 1907, their bodies were removed from the family burial plot and were buried in the Glendale Cemetery at Middleburg.

George Kremer was a Quaker by sentiment, and it is believed that had he lived among Quakers, he would have become affiliated with that religious denomination, since to him Quakerism represented the Christian spirit more nearly than any other denomination. This is illustrated by his use of the characteristic Quaker procedure in bringing about peaceful relationships between two farmers living on adjoining farms near Lewisburg, and who had become involved in litigation for some apparently insignificant reason. The report is that Kremer went to the home of one of the farmers and invited him to take a ride with him. As they passed the home of the other farmer, Kremer invited him to join them which he did, and after riding a short distance, he suggested taking a rest under a shade tree. It was then that George Kremer took from his pocket a New Testament and began to read the sixth chapter of First Corinthians. The two contending farmers who were churchmembers, after listening to the Scripture reading and to Kremer's exhortation, decided to drop the entire matter and become friends again. This was not the only attempt on the part of Kremer to effect a reconciliation between enemies. He was a devoted friend of the Reverend Yost Fries, a well-known minister of the Reformed Church in this section, and on one occasion he effected a reconciliation between him and some of his churchmembers who had become offended by the minister's frankness and bluntness of speech in addressing his congregation. Kremer was a generous supporter of the church and often rebuked churchmembers for their scanty contributions in support of the church.

Anecdotes Told About George Kremer

The general public knows very little about the life and public services of George Kremer, except for the story that while a member of the National House of Representatives, he made a speech to that body in the Pennsylvania German dialect, and that he lived in an old brick house on his farm in Swineford. There are several versions of the story that have come down through the years to which some consideration needs to be given. It is too good a story to disregard entirely. John W. Forney in his "Anecdotes of Public Men", originally published in the Washington SUNDAY CHRONICLE and Philadelphia PRESS (N. Y., 1872, 2 vols. P. 202-203) as quoted by the Susquehanna and Juniata Valley Vol. II. (1561) states:

When the first place in the cabinet was tendered to and accepted by the Kentucky statesman, honest George "cried aloud and spared not". The sensation he created disturbed the politics of the whole country, and led to many differences between public men. John Randolph of Roanoke, dilated upon the accusation against Clay to

such an extent that the new Secretary of State was compelled to challenge him to mortal combat.

After one of the peculiar speeches of the eccentric Virginian which he interlaced with copious quotations in Latin and Greek, Kremer arose, and in a strain of well-acted indignation, poured forth a torrent of Pennsylvania German upon the head of the amazed and startled Randolph. His violent gesticulations, his loud and boisterous tones, his defiant manner were not more annoying to the imperious Southerner than the fact that he could not understand a word that was spoken. And when honest George took his seat, covered with perspiration, Randolph rose and begged the honorable gentleman from Pennsylvania to enlighten the House and the country by translating what he had just uttered. Kremer retorted as follows: 'I have only to say, in reply, to my friend from Virginia, that when he translates the dead languages, which he is constantly using for the benefit of us country members, into something like English, I will be equally liberal in translating my living Pennsylvania Dutch into something that the House can understand.'

A certain A. L. Guss gives a slightly different version of the incident purported to have been based on information obtained from the Congressional Debates.

It is related that in a heated debate some member of the House, in opposition to Kremer's views, made a beautiful speech, closing with a Latin quotation, whereupon Kremer quickly retorted that all that amounted to nothing, that he could show him a trick worth two of that, and commenced to hurl at him "Pennsylvania Dutch", to the great amusement of the House.

An examination of the Congressional Debate shows the story about quoting German to be well founded. It was March 13, 1824, on a clause in the general appropriation bill to grant \$25,000 for the erection of the north portico of the White House. Mr. Cushman, of Maine, in his speech said: 'I ask, in the language of the Roman orator, but not with the same views, *Quam republicam habemus?* In *qua urbe vivamus?*' Kremer in his reply said: He thought it (the proposed portico) was a monument of pride and extravagance and not of republican principles. He could not undertake to answer the gentlemen's fine speech. To him a great part of it was unintelligible and in reply to some quotations he had made in it, from a dead language, he should answer in his own mother tongue: 'Ich habe as nicht verstanden'. Kremer went on to say that the nation was now in debt. He did not believe that any man had a right to entail debt on posterity. As to this portico, it was, in his opinion, as unnecessary as a fifth wheel to a wagon. He did not think Congress had a right even to put up a necessary building till we were able to pay for it.

The story as given on pages 1778-1781 in the Annals of Congress for the First Session of the Eighteenth Congress may be summarized as follows:

The House was debating an item to grant a sum of money for a portico to be built onto the White House. In the course of some extended remarks defending the appro-

priation, Joshua Cushman of Maine used the following Latin sentence: "I ask, in the language of the Roman orator, but not with the same views, 'Quam republicam habemus? In qua urbe vivamus?'" Kremer stood up and opposed the item, declaring that he believed in the old republican principles of 1798, and therefore would not countenance grandeur, pride, and extravagance. As quoted by the reporter, Kremer continued: 'He could not undertake to answer the gentleman's fine speech; to him, a great part of it was unintelligible; and, in reply to some quotation he had made in it, from a dead language, he should answer in his own mother German tongue: Ich habe es nicht verstanden'.

These different versions of the same incident have enough of the common factor in them for the reader to accept the story as having at least some foundation for belief. He must not reject the story as a myth, neither can he accept it as it is usually told. The tendency to embellish an incident in order to make a good story out of it is exceedingly strong in many writers. This tendency may be considered responsible for the varying discrepancies in the stories by Forney, Guss, and other writers. That the ANNALS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES contain everything that really happened on that day is hardly to be expected since the reporter may not have understood the Pennsylvania German dialect, and therefore could not have recorded everything. The absence of evidence is not necessarily the evidence of absence. One might well wish for a full and complete account of what actually did happen.

Kremer's Attitude Toward National Issues

His congressional career may be characterized as a program of strict economy and violent opposition to everything that smacked of extravagance and political corruption. Kremer hated waste and display in our national life just about as much as he did in private life. He was scrupulously thrifty and was opposed to getting into debt. He was definitely opposed to any expenditures that appeared to him needless and for mere show. His opposition in 1828 to an appropriation for \$1,500 to meet the expenses of the Board of Visitors in its annual inspection tour of the West Point Military Academy is characteristic of the trend of his mind at the time. He felt the board was useless, that it was untrained to make proper military inspection, and that its report was prepared in advance for the members and was signed by them without question. Kremer felt that "the government might as well send so many wooden men". In the same year he opposed the appropriation of \$9,000, asked by President Adams, for a house for the American minister in Mexico. He felt the appropriation was a violation of "old-fashioned economy", that only the advocates of monarchies desired American ministers to other countries to live in luxury, and he held up President Adams as a glaring example of pomp and show when serving as the American minister to England. The appropriation failed to be made.

When the movement got underway to carve out of the western part of the territory then called Michigan a new territory called Huron, Kremer estimated that such a government would cost the nation annually from \$25,000 to \$30,000 just to suit a few worthless traitors, adventurers, debtors who had fled from justice, and the never-do-wells. In the entire territory there were only about 18,000 people, and the territorial delegate to rise in defense of his constituency from Krem-

er's insinuating remarks. Kremer had a positive dislike to spend government money for making the National Capital more beautiful and attractive. This is indicated in his refusal to vote for an appropriation for a new portico on the White House. He also opposed the expenditure of \$5,000 for the construction of sidewalks in the city of Washington. Said he, "I had, for one, found no difficulty whatever in going about the city or in getting up to the House, and, if ladies do muddy their toes, why let them e'en stay at home, and not come crowding the galleries of the House". When a resolution was introduced into the House to allow public worship in the hall of the House of Representatives on Sundays, he asked that body whether it "was true that we cannot go to heaven unless we have preaching here?" He felt there were plenty of churches in the city for worship. He thought the people brought so much mud and litter into the House on Sundays that the place always needed cleaning. He recalled that two weeks prior, he had spoken in favor of adjourning for a day in order to take up the carpet and remove the dirt from the floor. He also objected to granting permission to the city of Washington to raise money for city improvements. He declared that lotteries were bad, and criticized the permission granted the city ten years ago.

When the question arose in Congress about making internal improvements through the use of Federal money, Kremer appeared to favor the plan. He declared that while his efforts to remove sand bars from the Susquehanna River had failed, he was willing to vote for an appropriation of Federal money to see if it could be done in the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. It looks as though he was willing to support any internal improvement by the use of Federal funds providing his own district could profit by it. Thus, on February 12, 1829, in speaking of the Cumberland Road, he remarked that "he should withhold his vote for the bill till some of the public money was sent his way along the road to Buffalo, etc."

Kremer felt that government expenses and power should be cut down through a reduction in the number of unnecessary government officials. He seemed to live in the fear that the Federal government, by means of money and patronage, was becoming too powerful, and that there was real danger of its becoming monarchical. For this reason he was in favor of limiting the President to one term. It was this fear that led Kremer to oppose a bill to increase the number of judges in the Federal Courts. He believed that the more judges which were created, the more judges would be needed. He objected to the power of the Supreme Court to declare Acts of Congress unconstitutional. He felt that the present system of courts was a denial of justice because of the prohibitive cost of appealing a case to the Supreme Court—a cost that he estimated on the average \$6,500. On the other hand, he demanded rigid prosecution of all law violators and the best use of the courts already established. In his speech on a bill to establish a new criminal code, he advocated the quick detection, arrest, trial, conviction, and punishment of the lawbreaker. "As to the objection from persons sometimes suffering innocently" he said, "it might as well be said that you must not have a razor to shave your beard, because, forsooth you might by chance cut your throat".

Subsequent Career of Kremer

Kremer retired from Congress in 1829 a disillusioned man. Characteristic of the man, he continued to attack the corruption and extravagance at Washington. Although he helped to elect Jackson, he received no reward in the way of an administrative position for these efforts. A local movement in Union County nominated him for governor

of Pennsylvania, and delegates were chosen to support him at the Democratic State Convention in 1829, but nothing came of it. He was also defeated for the General Assembly. In 1834, he was a leader of the movement against free schools in Pennsylvania. He presided over a local General Taylor-for-President meeting in 1847 because he viewed him as the people's candidate.

An Evaluation of George Kremer

There is probably no good reason to question Kremer's sincerity in his advocacy of economy and honesty in government. He was sincere; perhaps too sincere for the times. Linn says: "Too honest to take part in the intrigues of his fellow-partisans at Washington, he could not make himself of any further use to them, and was pushed aside to make room for those who knew how to make the best use, for selfish purposes, of his services." If his honesty and sincerity of purpose in behalf of good government housekeeping are conceded, we still are forced to believe that he was politician enough to use some of his obstructive tactics to embarrass the administration in power for the purpose of helping to elect Jackson in 1828. There is no question that he spared no effort to attack the President and his Secretary of State at all possible points for the purpose of weakening the chances for reelection. George Kremer simply couldn't forgive and forget the "bargain and sales" episode that resulted in the defeat of his favorite candidate for the presidency in 1824.

Kremer was suspicious of highly-educated people and seemed to exult in his own lack of education probably as a defense mechanism. He used rustic illustrations and often crude analogies to drive home the point of an argument and he often expressed his ideas in uncouth language. In his opposition to education he represented the typical viewpoint of the Pennsylvania German people. He believed the people should be industrious, make an honest livelihood, and live simple and unpretentious lives. To 'honest' George Kremer, honesty and simplicity characterized the good life. As frequently expressed, he represented a fine type of the primitive manners, crude and unpolished ways of daily living, and the rugged and stern democracy of his day. Historians either disregard him entirely or give him little prominence as a statesman and public official.

His career as a Congressman is interesting, to say the least, since the very same issues that confronted him confront the people of this day. Among them may be mentioned the corrupt practices in governmental transactions, the curtailment of Federal expenditures, the reduction of the national debt, and the threatened dangers of centralization of power in our democracy. One cannot help but wonder how George Kremer would react today to Federal appropriations running into the billions for a much diversified type of uses, and to the mounting national indebtedness of upwards of \$300,000,000,000.

Joseph George Leshner

Joseph George Leshner, the editor and proprietor of the Selinsgrove TIMES for twenty-four years, can be regarded as one of the best-known newspaper men in Central Pennsylvania and one of Snyder County's most useful citizens. His grandfather, George Leshner, came from New Jersey and settled as a farmer in Point Township, Northumberland County. The Leshner family is of German ancestry. A son, Daniel R. Leshner (1819-1886), also was a farmer by occupation and followed it all his life. Daniel R. Leshner was married to Sarah J. Vankirk (1825-1897). They became the parents of thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters, the subject of our sketch, Joseph G., being

the seventh child of the family. He was born August 9, 1855, in Point Township, Northumberland County.

Early in life, his parents moved on a farm in the Blue Hill section of Monroe Township, Snyder County, where young Joseph G. Leshner grew to manhood. He received his education in the common schools of that day. Like his parents and grandparents, he followed farming for a number of years. He then served as a railway mail clerk on the New York and Pittsburgh Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1883 he married Mary Ellen App (1857-1929), the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram P. App, and the granddaughter of John App, one of the founders of Missionary Institute, now Susquehanna University. Two sons were born to them, Chalender H. of Huntingdon and Lea R. of Lock Haven. He soon quit the railroad business and purchased in 1886 the Selinsgrove TIMES from T. Benton Ulrich. The TIMES was a weekly paper and the only Democratic newspaper in Snyder County. He served as its editor and publisher for twenty-four years, when in 1910, he sold it to Marion S. Schoch. Leshner then bought in partnership with his son, Chalender, the Huntingdon MONITOR, the only Democratic newspaper in Huntingdon County. He retired from the newspaper business May 21, 1936, after fifty years of outstanding services as an editor and publisher (1886-1936). His son, Chalender, continued in the newspaper work until 1944 when he likewise retired. Mr. Leshner died January 5, 1940, in Orlando, Florida, and was buried in the Riverview Cemetery, Huntingdon, Pa.

Joseph G. Leshner was one of the great Democratic leaders of the county, and one of the great public-spirited men of his day. He served as councilman in Selinsgrove for several terms and was county commissioner for one term (1906-1909). He was the postmaster at Huntingdon for six years during the Wilson Administration, being appointed March 1, 1915. While he was an ardent advocate and supporter of the principles of the Democratic Party, he could see issues beyond the mere confines of a narrow partisanship. He supported a Republican in local elections whenever he felt he was a better man than his opponent and more worthy of the office. When Judge Joseph C. Bucher in 1901 candidated for a third term in the Mifflin, Union, and Snyder Judicial District, Leshner was opposed to the third term idea and openly threw his influence to Harold M. McClure, the Republican candidate. For this action, the Democratic County Committee attempted to read him permanently out of his party, but when the committee met afterwards for re-organization, Joseph G. Leshner was not only present but was triumphantly elected chairman of the committee. His personal influence was tremendous, and sometimes when a certain cause in which he was greatly interested appeared irretrievably lost, it turned out to be highly successful. He served as the Democratic Chairman of Huntingdon County, and was the delegate to a number of Democratic State and National Conventions. Joseph G. Leshner was too big a man to be sullen and disgruntled in a party defeat, and he was never bombastically hilarious in a party victory. He philosophically took life as it presented itself from day to day and that made him a highly respected citizen irrespective of party affiliations.

He was a great champion of the best interests for the local community. He was fearlessly courageous in supporting a movement that he believed was for the common welfare. One of the most strenuous local fights in which Leshner ever engaged was the Selinsgrove Water Works issue.* A group of local Democrats wanted Selinsgrove to own its own water supply system while a small group of Republican leaders advocated the granting of the water franchise to Peter Herdic of Williamsport. In connection with the water works fight was the issue

*See Chapter 18

whether Dr. B. F. Wagenseller, Republican, or Howard D. Schnure, Democrat, should be elected the Chief Burgess. As a result of the controversy, the borough ownership group was defeated, but the fight left wounds that remained open sores for many years. The journalistic warfare between Editors Lombard and Weirick was resumed, but in much less caustic fashion. For a long time, practically every weekly issue contained something of an attack by the one upon the other. Evidently each editor preferred to issue his edition a little late so as to have the opportunity to say the last word for that week.

It must be said that Joseph G. Leshner was a man of much more than average ability. He was a very familiar figure in Selinsgrove and Snyder County for a quarter of a century. Irrespective of party affiliations, those people who knew him well were very fond of him. In fact, those people who didn't like him were the people who didn't know him. He possessed an abundance of good common sense, a rugged honesty, and a homely philosophy of life that appealed immensely to the Pennsylvania German population of the county. He was popularly known as "Joe" Leshner. He possessed a vigorous, enthusiastic, and a wholesome personality that thrilled people whenever they came in contact with him. He showed a marked loyalty to his friends. He constantly added zest to the life of others. In speech, he was brutally outspoken; in his actions, he was always straightforward. He was an able, versatile, and fearless newspaper man. His editorials were terse, crisp, and to the point. To him life was a constant venture with both a forward and a backward look. While he was a newspaper man, first and foremost, he was also a politician in the best sense of that term.

Joseph Ashur Lombard

Joseph Ashur Lombard, the editor of the Snyder County TRIBUNE for forty-seven years, was born in Selinsgrove in 1844. He received what is known as a common school education. In 1860 he became an apprentice in the office of the Selinsgrove TIMES, published by Neuwell and Weirick. At the age of eighteen he dropped his apprenticeship as a printer and enlisted for three years in Captain Charles S. Davis' famous company G, 147th regiment, P. V. I. He saw much active army service, and served until the end of the war. He was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg and participated in Sherman's memorable march from Atlanta to the sea. Upon his return home at the close of the war, he became foreman in the office of the Snyder County TRIBUNE, then published in Middleburg. In 1866 he became part owner, and in 1874 editor and publisher, and continued in that capacity until his retirement from the newspaper business in 1913. He was very active in politics. He served as the chairman of the Republican County Committee and was twice delegate to the Republican State Convention. In 1877 he became an Associate Judge in Snyder County. In 1882, 1890, and 1893, he filled political appointments at Harrisburg. He was school director for thirteen years and also served as a member of the Borough Council. He was the leading spirit in organizing and promoting the G. A. R. Posts in the county. He was a faithful and active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church and a Sunday School teacher for about thirty years. He died December, 1915, and was buried in Union Cemetery. The editors of the Snyder County TRIBUNE paid him the following tribute:

The town of Selinsgrove has experienced the removal of many landmarks during the last few years, one of whom for more than two generations was the publisher of the Snyder County TRIBUNE. His words and deeds are the best memory and the truest memorial of him.

For forty-seven years Joseph Ashur Lombard was the editor and publisher of the Snyder County TRIBUNE, the oldest Republican news-

paper in Snyder County. His editorials show that he was a vigorous writer, was positive in character, and was unafraid to voice his civic and political convictions. In politics his paper was consistently Republican. Lumbard had little patience with any efforts to establish a new party at variance with the old one. With the removal of the Snyder County TRIBUNE to Selinsgrove in 1871, Selinsgrove became the home of two newspapers. This paper was Republican in politics and had an editorial policy that differed materially from that of the Democratic TIMES. As could be expected, soon there developed a great personal and political controversy between Joseph A. Lumbard, the editor of the TRIBUNE and Franklin Weirick, the editor of the TIMES. These two editors were politically on the opposite sides of the fence and quite naturally arrayed against each other on practically every question of civic policy and partisan politics.

Back of these editorial policies were two editors with wholly different personalities, with opposing partisan politics in competition with each other, and residing in the same immediate community. Any public issue, local, State, or National, immediately became colored by the personal experience of the two editors. This editorial feud reached its climax when there was much special legislation in behalf of particular communities in place of general legislation for the state as a whole. Much of this special legislation was highly controversial in nature, and it appears whatever side the one editor would take, the other editor was sure to take the opposite side. It ought to be said that while both editors were opposed to this type of legislation, still they were for the most part in violent opposition to each other with respect to it. The constitution of 1838 permitted such local and special legislation. For example, if a divorce was to be granted, a railroad built, or a new bridge across a creek erected, it could be done only by permission of the State Legislature. It becomes easy to see that such special legislation often smacked of much favoritism, partisan politics, and even political corruption. Improvements were provided for in a local community that had no relationship whatever to the general welfare. In this way special legislation was often nothing more or less than political fence-building or political log-rolling for the party in power at the time. In this way the party in power, which was trying to stay in power, would be the target for all the missiles that the party out of power could possibly throw.

The editorial feud between Weirick and Lumbard often hardly was anything than mere personal attacks. It ought to be borne in mind the Selinsgrove TIMES had no competition since the removal of the POST to Middleburg in 1867, and Editor Weirick evidently did not welcome newspaper competition in a small community, and especially when it came from the Republican party. Much more Joseph A. Lumbard was a Civil War veteran, and obviously much of this editorial feud grew out of the fact that Lumbard as a soldier had fought for the Union and was an ardent supporter of the cause of the North, while Weirick was not a veteran at all, but was instead an outspoken advocate, through the columns of his newspaper, of the cause of Confederacy. They both lived in the same community, knew each other's personal shortcomings, and made them the targets of their attacks. Lumbard and Weirick were almost diametrically opposite personalities. Lumbard was inclined to be religious, was disposed to church-going, a deep dyed-in-the-wool Republican, deliberately cautious, an enthusiastic Unionist, and a devoted promoter and organizer of the G. A. R. Posts. On the other hand, Weirick lacked interest in the church and religion, was disposed to be impulsively reckless, a Democrat in politics, an ardent proponent of dis-unionism and one who regarded Union Civil War veterans as a misguided and mis-led group of well-meaning men.

Ner Middleswarth

It is most unfortunate that a county frequently bestows upon comparative strangers great honor while at the same time it permits its own sons to become all but forgotten. The life and public services of the Honorable Ner Middleswarth is a case in point. Our information about this man is rather meager. There are at least two good reasons for this. When the old Middleswarth homestead, located about one mile east of Beavertown, was destroyed by fire some years after his death in 1865, most of the valuable papers, records, and documents pertaining to his public career were destroyed. Again, while greatly loved and respected by the citizens of his home community, Ner Middleswarth was thought a much greater man by his associates in public life than by his friends and neighbors back home. He was too modest a man and too much absorbed in other interests to put forth any social efforts to conserve any biographical data for posterity. This situation, though deemed unfortunate, has been duplicated again and again in the course of history.

Early Life

Ner Middleswarth, one of the most widely known men of Snyder County, was born of humble parentage in Glasgow, Scotland, December 12, 1783. In 1792, when about ten years old, his parents, John (1744-1815) and Martha (1750-1824) Middleswarth, moved to Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, now Beaver Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, and located on a tract of land about one mile south of where Beavertown is now located. Beavertown was not laid out until 1810 when Ner Middleswarth was twenty-eight years old. At this time practically the entire region was forest land, a favorite hunting ground, and Indians still roved about in bands. Several Indian trails passed hard by the Middleswarth log cabin. On the property is located a large spring which was evidently a favorite resort for the Indians. Since there were very few wagon roads at the time, settlers had to cut their way through the forests, ford the streams, and clear the land. When a person walks along the land settled by the Middleswarths in 1792, one cannot help but wonder why they settled in that particular locality. It is evident for the times that they could have chosen dozens of places in that neighborhood much more attractive for a permanent home. In the midst of these pioneer surroundings, Ner Middleswarth grew to manhood.

The original dwelling house was a log building in which were reared the family of two sons, Ner and Abraham, and the three daughters. The first log cabin later was replaced by another one just across the road. The original homestead later passed into the possession of Moses Middleswarth, a son of the Honorable Ner Middleswarth, and a grandson of John and Martha Middleswarth. Today no farm buildings are there, but the sites of the house, barn, garden, and spring can readily be pointed out by their surface remains. The present owner of this land is Merle Knepp.

The one son, Abraham Middleswarth, as a young man emigrated to Shelby County, Illinois, where he became the progenitor of a long line of descendants, many of whom are living today in that locality. The other son, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in the home neighborhood. He spent his boyhood days on the farm, but later became apprenticed to the blacksmith trade. There is no record, however, that he ever followed that occupation, evidently preferring farm life instead. He never attended school longer than three months. In that sense Ner Middleswarth was a self-made man. He had very little knowledge of the higher branches as would be expected.

The Family

Ner Middleswarth was married to Christine Schwartzkop with whom he had twelve children. Many of the descendants are still living in the vicinity of Beavertown and in adjoining communities. The children were — John, married to Elizabeth Fall; Mary, married to John Howell; Moses, married to Elizabeth Houtz; Abner, married to Sophia Bickel; Aaron J., married to Sallie Feese; Abraham K., married to Elizabeth Bubb; Merib, married to Jacob Feese; Jacob, married to Sarah Bubb; Martha, married to John S. Smith; Eliza, married to Reuben Feese; Sarah, married to Reuben Klose; Matilda, married to Peter Reigle, the father of Peter Reigle, Associate Judge of the County (1901-1909). Of their descendants may be mentioned Ner B. Middleswarth, McClure, the son of Abraham K. and Elizabeth Bubb Middleswarth, who served as the sheriff of the county in 1885; Ner Middleswarth, Troxelville, the son of Jacob and Sarah Bubb Middleswarth, the father of Charles J. Middleswarth of Troxelville, forest ranger for twenty-five years; Doctor A. M. Smith, Beaver Springs, was the son of Martha Middleswarth, married to John S. Smith; Eliza Middleswarth, married to Reuben Feese, the mother of two sons and two daughters. The one daughter, Sabina, was married to Henry M. Freed, whose son, Oscar Freed, resides today in Beavertown; the other daughter, Sarah Ellen, was married to A. M. Carpenter, and their sons are Attorney J. P. Carpenter, of Sunbury, and Reverend Sanford N. Carpenter, D. D., formerly of McClure, now deceased, and the daughter is Elsie Carpenter Walker of Beavertown, now living with her son, Alvin Walker.

Ner Middleswarth reared this family on the farm one and one-half miles east of Beavertown. This farm was later owned by his grand-daughter, Mrs. Jacob Feese, and today is owned by her son, Blaine Feese of Beavertown. The farm is sometimes referred to as the Feese or Carpenter farm. It was on this farm that Ner Middleswarth died June 2, 1865, at the age of eighty-one years. Ner Middleswarth and his wife are buried in the cemetery at Beavertown. His parents are buried in the old cemetery at Beaver Springs.

Military Career

Ner Middleswarth served in the War of 1812 as a captain of a company of volunteers. This company was attached to the Eighth Pennsylvania Rifles under the command of Colonel James Irwin. The company marched to Buffalo and took part in the Niagara Falls campaign. In 1814 Middleswarth raised another company, attached to a regiment commanded by Colonel Uhl, belonging to a division under the command of General Cadwalader, and stationed at Marcus Hook, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Political Career

In politics Ner Middleswarth was a Whig during the existence of that party (1835-1856), and when that party was replaced in 1856 by the present Republican Party, he became a Republican. He was a radical and loyal unionist. He had frequently expressed the hope, when sick and bedfast, that he might live to see the Civil War terminate in a Union victory. Happily this wish was realized. Lee surrendered in April, 1865, and Middleswarth died in June of the same year.

In 1815 Ner Middleswarth became a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from Union County (then comprising Union and Snyder), and was re-elected thereafter for thirteen terms covering the period 1815-1842. He was twice chosen Speaker of the House, first in 1828, and next in 1836. He was considered by his colleagues a

master of parliamentary practice, and frequently was called to the chair in periods of serious debates in the House. He served his district, comprising Union, Juniata, and Mifflin counties, in the State Senate in 1848 for one term. From 1853-1855, he was a member of the Thirty-Third Congress. In 1843 he was a candidate for governor on the Whig Party. He served as the president of the Whig Party State Convention at Harrisburg, March 1847. In 1851 he was the Whig Caucus nominee for State Treasurer. He closed his public career by serving in the capacity of Associate Judge of the county, serving one term of five years (1858-1863). As an Associate Judge, he frequently served as the interpreter of the German Language for the President Judge who happened not to be conversant with it. This was also made necessary on account of the large German population of the county being unable to give testimony in court in the English language. While not a lawyer, he was nevertheless well-versed in the law. When the President Judge wasn't present in court or was late in arriving because of difficulties in traveling, the Honorable Ner Middleswarth would sometimes charge the Grand Jury to act upon certain bills brought before the court by the District Attorney.

Business Career

As a farmer and business man he met with considerable success. From 1841 to 1861 he was the owner of a grist-mill, two saw-mills, and a clover-mill. From 1826 to 1835 he owned two distilleries. He was frequently referred to as a rich landowner, owning at one time seventeen farms in the neighborhood of Beavertown, and was worth in 1860 probably \$130,000. He was the promulgator and chief stockholder of the Beaver Furnace, located near the present site of Paxtonville. This industry was carried on as a corporation by the name of Middleswarth, Kerns, and Company. The business was thriving in its beginning, but later through the mis-management or lack of management of the foreman, the corporation was forced into the hands of a receiver, and Ner Middleswarth was obliged to pay the entire indebtedness. Up to this time he had accumulated considerable wealth, but through the failure of the iron-ore industry, he lost much of it. This large financial loss weighed heavily upon him, and hastened his decline in health and his death.

Appraisal of the Man

Ner Middleswarth was one of the most widely known, honored, and respected citizens of Snyder County. He was thoroughly devoted to the service of his fellowmen, and was a representative of his people in the fullest sense of the term. He was well-thought of, was regarded as absolutely honest, and was considered a wise counsellor. His neighbors confided in him frequently and consulted him in respect to their problems and questions of great difficulty. He was the executor, the administrator, and the guardian for many estates in his own community. Already in his youth he showed those qualities of sound judgment and wise leadership that characterized him so well during his life. While not a church member, he was keenly interested in the church and was always liberal in his contribution to the Lutheran Church in Beavertown. Physically, he was a powerful man, being five feet ten inches in his stocking feet, and weighing nearly two hundred pounds. He dressed in a plain, simple manner, was always simple in his tastes, and scrupulous in his speech. He was never known to utter a profane or obscene word. He was a fluent talker, good orator, and was ever able and fearless in expressing his views on the questions of the day. He was prominently identified with the Anti-Masonic agitation in the

United States and was an opponent of free public schools. He was a public servant for about thirty years of his life.

Ner Middleswarth lived in a day when states were organized and their course of development moulded by great statesmen. He lived in the era of the Articles of Confederation, the period of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, the development of states, the War of 1812, the struggle with the slavery question, and the great Civil War. He lived during the administrations of sixteen presidents, from Washington to Lincoln. The Honorable Ner Middleswarth belongs to the rank and file of Pennsylvania's great men such as Simon Snyder, Thaddeus Stevens, and Simon Cameron. He was at the height of his career in the days of Webster, Clay, Calhoun, and Andrew Jackson. It is expedient to know how others evaluated the life and character and the public services of this man. Colonel Alexander K. McClure of Philadelphia had this to say of Ner Middleswarth:

I never knew any public man, and I knew all worth knowing very well before the outbreak of the Civil War, who appeared to better advantage than Ner Middleswarth. He was a lustrous figure in the legislative forums of his state and country and was endowed with unusual capacity. I studied him and was attracted to him on account of his forceful personality. I frequently saw him and Webster and Clay when in Congress, and studied Webster's famous face and head, but my innate conviction always was that when in the zenith of his career, Middleswarth had an expression of features and a head finer than Webster's. He had the finest head of any man I knew.

When Middleswarth was the candidate for Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the UNION STAR of New Berlin, in its issue of January 1, 1841, gave him the following appraisal:

Of all the members elected to that body, he appears to be the most conspicuous person, and should surely be elected. Middleswarth's known talents and long experience as a statesman, his sterling and unbending principles, justly entitle him to the station. He will preside over the House with dignity and decorum, and to the entire satisfaction of all members. His services as Speaker will be of great importance during the approaching session. We want a Speaker who is sound to the core, one who knows his duty, and will do it. Such a man is Ner Middleswarth.

THE HISTORY OF THE SUSQUEHANNA AND JUNIATA VALLEYS STATES:

Ner Middleswarth was without doubt one of the most prominent and valuable citizens of Central Pennsylvania. Nearly all his life was devoted to the service of his fellow citizens, and he was recognized by members of all political parties as a thoroughly representative public man.

The Selinsgrove TIMES, in its issue of June 16, 1865, states the following:

In his early life his pecuniary circumstances were very limited but by hard work of mind and body, he accumulated a large fortune and rose to a conspicuous position in politics. We have no one probably who acted a more conspicuous part in politics and general affairs of this county than did Honorable Ner Middleswarth.

George Schnure

George Schnure was a distinguished banker and merchant of Selinsgrove. His good and useful life practically extended over the entire period of the nineteenth century. He was born in Penn Township December 23, 1811. His father, John Christian Schnure, was born at Dudenhopen, Germany, July 2, 1763, the son of John George Schnure and Anna Catherine Schnure, of the Principality of the Hess Castle. In 1782 John Christian Schnure, emigrated to America when but eighteen years old as a redemptioner and worked in payment for his passage to America on a farm in Berks County. From there he emigrated to the Middle Creek Valley and settled in Middlecreek Township where he married Elizabeth Pontius (1776-1852) who had come to that locality with her parents from Philadelphia. John Christian Schnure died July 27, 1827. He was the father of eight children, Catherine, Henry, Elizabeth, Michael, Mary, George, Levi, and Margaret.

As a boy he worked on his father's farm during the summer months and attended school for three or four months during the winter season. At the age of nine he began to work in a store at Hartleton. In the spring of the year he returned home to work again on his father's farm. The following fall he began to work in another store in Hartleton and continued there for four years. In 1825 his employer moved his store to New Berlin, and George Schnure accompanied him and continued his work as a clerk for a year. He then worked in the store of John A. Sterrett of Northumberland, but later returned to New Berlin and worked once more for his former employer. He continued for nine months. In 1833, at the age of twenty-two, George Schnure came to Selinsgrove. There he went into the mercantile business in partnership with his former employer, John A. Sterrett, on the northwest corner of Walnut and Market. After continuing in this business for three years, Sterrett sold his interests to Col. Henry C. Eyer and retired from business. Eyer and Schnure continued in partnership for seven years. They then sold out, and two years later George Schnure and James K. Davis, Jr., went into partnership in the store business on the northwest corner of Market and Pine Streets. In addition to the general store, they were also engaged in the grain and shipping business on the Pennsylvania Canal for twelve years. In 1858 they sold out to Charles S. Davis and Lewis R. Hummel.

About 1860 Schnure bought the Davis interests and the partnership was continued for four years. In 1868 he entered into partnership with Daniel Carey in the purchase of the Maine Saw Mill. This partnership was continued until the death of Carey in 1873. In 1879 Schnure bought the Isle of Que Mills from Azariah Kreeger and J. Pawling, and then took into partnership his son Howard D. Schnure who previously had been in partnership with Kreeger and Pawling. This milling business was continued by George Schnure until his death in 1893. When Selinsgrove became a borough in 1853 George Schnure became the first burgess. About 1850 he was elected a director of the Northumberland Bank. It is stated that he carried the money of the bank patrons of this section there for deposit. He continued a director of the bank after it was removed to Sunbury where it became the First National Bank of Sunbury. He served in this capacity until his death in 1893. In 1864 he became the president of the First National Bank of Selinsgrove and served until 1889.

George Schnure was a strong supporter of the free, public, tax-supported schools and served as school director in Selinsgrove for many years. He was the treasurer of Missionary Institute during the Civil War period and served as the president of the board of directors. He was the first president of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad, now the

Sunbury-Lewistown Railroad. He was married in 1841 to Cordelia Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Davis, Sr. She died in 1859. The children were Frances, Marion, John Sylvester, Howard Davis, Elizabeth Eyer, and Emma Catherine. At the time the Schnure family lived on South Market Street. In 1863 he married Amanda Spyker of Lewisburg. The family then lived on the corner of Market and Pine Streets where his store was located. This entire block was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1874. Mr. Schnure then moved to the house, 101 South Market Street, where he died January 27, 1893, at the age of eighty-two years.

G. Alfred Schoch

G. Alfred Schoch of Middleburg was a very distinguished, progressive, and useful citizen of Snyder County. As a young man, he already began to be active and helpful in community living and community improvement, and continued to do so until the end of his days. He was prominently identified in his lifetime with practically every forward-looking undertaking at the county-seat and throughout the county. He was an excellent conversationalist, possessed a kind-hearted disposition, generous in his financial contributions to worthy causes, and friendly in his contacts with the people. He can readily be listed among the most popular people of the entire county and of neighboring counties.

G. Alfred Schoch was born near Middleburg, January 16, 1843, and terminated his useful career of nearly three-quarters of a century September 27, 1917. He was the great-great grandson of Mathias Schoch, one of the first settlers in the Middle Creek Valley on the site of the present town of Kreamer. He received his education in the public schools of his native community and in the Freeburg Academy. He taught school for nine winter terms, then served as a clerk in a store, and finally entered the store business for himself in a brick building located on the square in Middleburg. He continued in the mercantile business until the last decade of the last century. He helped to organize the First National Bank of Middleburg in 1889 and served as its president until his death in 1917. He played a prominent part in the organization of the Middlecreek Valley Telephone Company in 1910, became its first president, and remained the head of the company to the time of his death. Among other important positions that he held may be mentioned the offices of president and active director of the Middleburg Shoe Factory, school director of many years, officer of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, member of the Board of Directors of Susquehanna University, president of the First National Bank of New Berlin, jury commissioner of Snyder County, member of the General Assembly for two terms, and a strong supporter and promoter of the Middle Creek Valley Railroad.

Mr. Schoch was well known for his generosity in behalf of charitable and philanthropic enterprises. He readily gave a helping hand financially to numerous movements for county improvement. He contributed liberally to the school at New Berlin and made it possible for a number of young people to secure an education that otherwise would have been impossible. When the county courthouse was reconstructed in 1915, he donated to the county the courthouse tower clock and the court room dial. His life was full of good deeds, and his radiant personality and genuine helpfulness in the community will always be missed in the numerous business enterprises with which he was connected.

Mary Kittera Snyder

Mary Kittera Snyder (1821-1900) was the daughter of John Snyder and Mary Louise Kittera Snyder. The father, John Snyder, was the

oldest son of Governor Simon Snyder and Elizabeth Michael Snyder, John Snyder has frequently been referred to as "Handsome John" to distinguish him from his uncle "Black John", the governor's older brother. The mother, Mary Louise Kittera Snyder, was the daughter of the Hon. John Wilkes Kittera, Congressman from Lancaster during the administrations of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson. The young couple were married in 1811 and lived in the governor's mansion in Selinsgrove. To them were born two daughters, the older, Elizabeth, and the younger, Mary Kittera, the subject of this sketch. Two months after the birth of the younger daughter, the mother died and the two girls were taken to Philadelphia and placed in the care of their maternal grandmother, Mrs. John Wilkes Kittera, who lived with her son, Thomas, and her daughter, Anna Kittera, at 518 Walnut Street. It was in this home that the family entertained Lafayette upon his visit to the United States in 1824.

In those days few of the city streets were paved and consequently some of them were not unlike that of country dirt roads. Mary Kittera Snyder often related that a negro servant was accustomed to accompany the two girls on their trips about the city carrying a plank which he laid over the muddy crossings for them to walk on. He always accompanied the two sisters to and from school as a body guard against any attempt to kidnap them on the part of their father who had become estranged from their grandmother. The two sisters were educated in a leading seminary for girls in Philadelphia. As young women, the two sisters became members of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and proved active in the work of the parish as well as in the social life of the city. There seemed to be plenty of money in the Kittera family and the girls were reared in the lap of luxury. In course of time during the numerous social activities, James Buchanan, a young lawyer from Lancaster, who many years afterwards became the president of the United States, became interested in Mary Kittera Snyder, and the two became engaged as is evidenced by certain letters (now in the possession of Wheatland), written by James Buchanan to Miss Mary Kittera Snyder and her aunt Miss Anne Kittera. In these letters expressions like "my intended" and "that portion of this world's goods I hold most dear" seems to indicate rather clearly this engagement relationship.

The grandmother died in 1843 and the two sisters left in the care of their aunt, Miss Anne Kittera. The family soon met with severe financial reverses so that by 1861 Mary Kittera Snyder found herself practically penniless, and yet charged with the responsibility of caring for her invalid aunt. Her only income was from a farm near Selinsgrove left to her and to Mrs. Irene Walls of Lewisburg, a daughter of her father by a second marriage. Miss Snyder left her aunt in the care of the Baldwin family in Philadelphia and returned to Selinsgrove. At first she lived in the homes of relatives, the descendants of Major Anthony Selin and his wife, Cathrine Snyder Selin, a sister of the governor. Miss Mary Kittera Snyder soon decided to teach school and she opened a private school on South Market Street in the neighborhood of the location of the present Selinsgrove Hardware Store. In 1869 Miss Snyder was appointed postmistress of Selinsgrove by President Ulysses S. Grant upon the recommendation of Simon Cameron. The post office at the time was located in the little building south of the Trinity Lutheran Church on South Market Street. The back portion of the building was used by her as a place of residence and the front part served as the post office. At that time the first mail arrived at 4 A. M. but Miss Snyder was up and about at that early hour and ever faithfully attended to all the duties of the office. Soon after becoming the postmistress she purchased the building on North Market Street, since known as the Rectory of the present Episcopal

Church, and then transferred the post office to the hallway of her new home. She then brought her aunt, Miss Anne Kittera, from Philadelphia and provided for her a new home in Selinsgrove. In course of time the aunt became feeble-minded and died in 1878. Miss Snyder continued as postmistress until 1879 when she resigned.

After the death of her aunt, some old deeds were fortunately discovered in her trunk that were titles to land in Taswell County, Illinois. This land was then sold and the money was found sufficient to provide Miss Snyder a comfortable income for life. Being always very much interested in the church, and now having adequate means to do something tangible for the church, she decided to build an Episcopal church in Selinsgrove as a memorial to her illustrious grandfather, Governor Simon Snyder. The ground for this new church was broken on All Saints Day and so that name was given to the church. In the belfry of the church hangs a bell with the inscription—"To the Glory of God and the memory of Simon Snyder". The church building was all but completed when Miss Snyder died, July 27, 1900. She was buried in Union Cemetery by the side of her aunt, Miss Anne Kittera. A single cross marks the grave.

Franklin Weirick

The Civil War was fought because of disagreements among the states on the doctrine of states' rights and the question of slavery. Because the war was a conflict among citizens of the same country, it engendered much hate not only between the North and South but also among individual citizens of the same section of the country. Not all the citizens of the North were Unionists nor were all the citizens of the South Secessionists. The people of the North who were in sympathy with the South were known as "copperheads" because they were looked upon as being disloyal to the Union on the grounds that at least they were giving moral support to the enemy. Many of the southern sympathizers were affiliated with the Democratic Party and were active supporters of the party platform in the presidential campaign of 1864 because they believed that the war was a failure and that the South could not be subdued.

One of these many northern opponents of the war was Franklin Weirick, the editor of the SELINSGROVE TIMES. He was a real copperhead if there ever was one. Weirick was an open sympathizer of the South, an active opponent of President Lincoln and his policies, and thereby met with much disfavor in Snyder County, a pronounced Unionist stronghold. Quite naturally one desires some information about the life and character of such a man, and why he was such an outspoken opponent of the Union Cause when living in a community whose population was prevailingly its most enthusiastic supporter. It is a matter of deep regret that so little is known of his private life. Those who knew him personally report that he was not sociable, disposed to be a recluse, and never had much to say about himself and his life. Whenever he did appear on the streets, he wore a high silk hat and a cut-away coat, and carried a cane. He was not known to hold conversations with persons whom he met on the streets. He quickly did whatever business demanded his attention and just as quickly disappeared in the privacy of his own home on Water Street. He was a strange man to say the least. If we could have full knowledge of his ancestry, early life and training, and particularly of the controlling incidents of his early life, undoubtedly his idiosyncrasies, strange behavior, and his fanatic espousal of the southern cause would be more understandable to all of us, and we could better appreciate the worth of this man.

Franklin Weirick was greatly opposed to the abolition of slavery.

He severely censured Christian ministers for advocating abolition, and frequently bordered on the irreligious in doing so. He failed completely to see any sense at all in a war for the purpose of liberating the negroes, since he couldn't see any good in the negroes. His opposition to the negroes was so pronounced that he had a tendency to hold the negro responsible for crime generally. His method of attack was ridicule, abuse, impudence, name-calling, sarcasm, and outright condemnation. It may always remain a mystery how he was able to get away with all of this vituperative and abusive language. He was a great champion of free speech and of a free press. When his enemies threatened him with physical injury, he dared them to do their worst. He was apparently a very courageous man, even bordering at times on being reckless and foolhardy, unless his demeanor can be interpreted as a display of bombast or mere bravado.

There is no gainsaying about his disloyalty to the Union, in fact he openly admitted his disloyalty. He urged soldiers to become army deserters when emancipation of the negroes became one of the objectives of the war. He opposed the Draft Law of 1863 on the ground that it was unconstitutional. The re-election of President Lincoln in 1864 simply aggravated his opposition to the administration and its policies. He did not hesitate to launch a personal attack on the nation's chief magistrate. His tirades on Lincoln did not cease with his assassination and death. The defeat of the Confederacy did not change his views on secession and slavery. There probably was no other newspaper editor just like him. He was well-read in the fields of history and current literature. This impression is readily gained upon reading his editorials and the numerous quotations clipped from newspapers all over the country. He read many different newspapers whose editorial policy was either similar to his own or was violently opposed to it. He must have followed this course in order constantly to get either new materials in support of his policies or to gain materials to attack and condemn. He possessed such a command of the English language that it seemed easy for him to do it with perfection.

Mr. Weirick was the owner and the publisher of the SELINS-GROVE TIMES from 1857 to 1882. During these twenty-five years, he edited the only Democratic newspaper in Snyder County. Franklin Weirick may always be regarded a unique newspaperman largely because he was able to publish a successful Democratic newspaper in a Republican stronghold for a quarter of a century with an editorial policy, trenchant and penetrating, that was largely at variance with the political thinking and personal viewpoints of the people of the community. When he relinquished the editorship of the TIMES in 1882, he expressed his valedictory in the following words:

Few men have ever conducted a newspaper that have had warmer friends or bitterer foes than I have had. As is natural I may have made mistakes; but, upon the whole, I am very well satisfied with the career I have made.

SELINS-GROVE TIMES, July, 1882.

Frank Weirick was much more than just an average newspaper editor. He was a unique man in almost every way. He was a staunch Democrat and in open sympathy with the southern cause. He was utterly fearless in expressing his views on current political issues, and this brought him at times into serious difficulties. On one occasion in 1861, some Civil War soldiers home on a furlough irritated by Weirick's pro-southern editorials and evident disloyalty to the cause of the North, decided to put an end to this local copperhead movement. With a rope around his neck, they dragged the editor of the TIMES from his office in the Pepper Box and proceeded up Market Street, resolved

to hang him from the limb of a chestnut tree in front of Colonel Henry C. Eyer's home (now the site of the Post Office building). It was the timely intervention of Colonel Eyer that saved Weirick's life. On the evening of the same day, Weirick's associate in the newspaper work was assaulted by a soldier on furlough on the corner of Pine and Market Streets. Lacking the courage of his partner, he felt the best way out of the trouble was to leave the community. Despite all these misfortunes, Weirick, undaunted and fearless in what he believed was right, continued his editorials openly expressing his sympathy with the cause of the Confederacy.

Weirick died in February, 1915, at the ripe old age of eighty-four years. He was buried from his late home on North Water Street in Union Cemetery. The SELINGSGROVE TIMES of February 25, 1915, had the following to say of his life and work:

Mr. Weirick was exceptionally fitted for the editorial chair. He combined ability and energy with thoroughness and the courage of his own convictions. He was always deliberate in arriving at his conclusions, but when once his mind was made up, he was fearless in championing a cause. He was the best editor this paper ever had.

The Weis Brothers

The Weis Brothers (Harry and Sigmund) deserve a place in the history of Snyder County, not only because they are native sons and successful business men but also because they have achieved something outstanding in the mercantile world that nobody else in this area had ever achieved before. Harry and Sigmund Weis are the sons of Sigfried Weis and Ella Bernheim Weis. Sigfried Weis established a general merchandising business in Selinsgrove in 1872, on the corner of Market and Pine Streets. This business was continued at this place until 1915. This store was well and favorably known and enjoyed a large patronage over a period of many years.

Harry Weis was born in Selinsgrove in 1880, attended the local public schools, and was graduated from Susquehanna University in 1900 with the A. B. degree. He then entered the University of Pennsylvania Law School and received his law degree. He was admitted to the bar of Snyder County, and immediately entered into business with his father instead of beginning the practice of law. His brother, Sigmund Weis, was born in Selinsgrove in 1883, attended the local public schools, and was graduated from Susquehanna University in 1903 with the A. B. degree. He received his business training at the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York. Like his brother, he then entered into business with his father. Until the sons were taken into partnership, the business was operated under the name of S. Weis, but when they became partners, it became known as S. Weis and Sons. This was the largest department store in the county.

A number of years after the death of the father in 1907, the two brothers decided to enter the chain grocery store field and to operate the business on the cash-and-carry basis. This proved a new field of merchandising for this community. They opened their first store at 345 Market Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania in 1912. The store was managed by Sigmund Weis. The first clerk was A. C. Hummel of Chestnut Ridge, Monroe Township, who later was advanced to the position of manager of Store Number One, and has been holding this position to the present time. The second store was opened in 1915 at 1313 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. From that time on, stores were opened at different intervals, so that by 1933 there were 115 stores in operation in fifteen counties in Central Pennsylvania.

All these stores were operated until 1937 on the usual mercantile

plan when circumstances and conditions in retail food merchandising resulted in a change from small units in chain stores to large self-service markets. In July of that year, the first large self-service market, known as the Weis Self-Service Market, was opened on South Eighteenth Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Some of the old locations were converted into self-service markets and new ones were established. This resulted in the closing of some of the smaller stores in areas where were established these large markets. At the present time, there are now operating a total of fifty-four markets with a total personnel of 650 employees, consisting of thirty-five office and supervisory employees, forty-five warehouse employees, and truck drivers, and 570 store employees, including grocery, meat, and produce managers.

All of the foods sold in the chain stores are purchased from nationally known manufacturers and distributors, and are received in the central warehouse located on South Second Street, Sunbury, from which point they are distributed to the different stores. The coffee is imported from South America and is roasted in large roasters installed in the warehouse. All of the produce items and citrus fruits are purchased from growers during the winter months in Florida and California. A considerable amount of produce is purchased locally from farmers during the local seasons. The meats are purchased from large packing houses and from local slaughterers that serve the stores directly.

The Weis Store business was operated at first under the name of H. and S. Weis, trading as the Weis Pure Food Stores. On January 1, 1925, the partnership of Harry and Sigmund Weis was dissolved and a corporation was formed called the Weis Pure Food Stores, Inc. The following were named directors of the corporation: Harry Weis, Sigmund Weis, and A. Bahner Portzline. The officers elected were: Harry Weis, president; Sigmund Weis, vice-president and treasurer; and A. Bahner Portzline, secretary and general superintendent. Mr. Portzline started with the Weis Brothers April 1, 1917. The same officers have managed the business and have held their respective positions from the date of forming the new corporation to the present time.

Victoria Claflin Woodhull

It is most unfortunate that the personal lives of some of the makers of history have been so disreputable that the less history records of them the better it will be. The life of Victoria Claflin Woodhull (1838-1927) is a case in point. The mother's family had some local prominence, but the father's family was definitely of questionable character. Victoria Claflin Woodhull readily became one of the most notorious women in American history. So far as her family history is concerned, particularly on her mother's side, she belongs to Snyder County.

Her mother, Roxanna Hummel Claflin, was the daughter of Captain Jacob Hummel, a German, and a keeper of a tavern at Hummels Wharf, known as "The Rising Sun", now the residence of Truman Purdy, Esq. In fact, the town was named after this man. Captain Hummel served in the War of 1812 and was a leader in local politics. Her father, Rubin Buckham Claflin, a native of Massachusetts, was a roving individual, a professional gambler, and a horse-jockey. Claflin came to Selinsgrove with his horses, and soon became affiliated with sporting John Snyder, the son of the Governor. Snyder resided on his country estate, called "Freedom", located south of the Middle Creek bridge, on the left-hand side of the Susquehanna Trail. Roxanna Hummel was a maid at the time in the Snyder household. "Buck" Claflin married Roxanna Hummel about the year 1825, and shortly afterwards moved to Ohio where he conducted a tavern. The parents were hardly accepted by the people of the community as reputable and

respectable. The Claflin family consisted of ten children, of whom Victoria and Tennessee became by far the most notorious. So far as is known Victoria was the only one of the children born in the locality of Selinsgrove. The kind of discipline, or the lack of discipline in the home, together with the dissolute life of the parents and the attitude of their neighbors, may be held responsible at least in part, for the life and the character of the Claflin children.

The two sisters evidently were beautiful and talented, and had magnetic personalities. They appeared to possess uncanny powers such as spiritism, mind-reading, fortune-telling, clairvoyance, and faith-healing. They were the advocates of "free love, and of no marriage at all on earth, since there was none in heaven". The lives of the two women proved an almost unbroken series of scandals. Imposing themselves upon the credulity of Cornelius Vanderbilt as faith-healers and spiritists, they were aided by him in establishing themselves in 1870 as "lady brokers" on Wall Street. From tips from Vanderbilt, they made a fortune which they soon lost in the publishing of several newspapers for the purpose of promulgating their ideas of free thought, free love, prostitution, the independence of women, the rights of labor, suffrage without distinction of sex, communism, and other "isms" of the early seventies. Both women were frequently arrested and lodged in jail for publishing and sending obscene matter through the mails. The two women had the effrontery to undertake almost anything that seemed unchaste and anti-social generally, and they possessed a pronounced persistency in all of their efforts to get whatever they wanted.

Victoria was by far the more notorious of the two sisters. She has been described as brilliant, beautiful, but practically illiterate. She lectured much on her favorite themes and was usually considered an able platform speaker. In December, 1870, Victoria Claflin Woodhull proved to be the first suffragette to have an official hearing before a congressional committee. She presented the Woodhull Memorial praying the Congress of the United States to enact forthwith the necessary legislation to grant to women the right of suffrage in line with the spirit of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The memorial was presented to both houses and referred to the judiciary Committee. On January, 1871, she was privileged to address the House Judiciary Committee in behalf of her measure. In November, 1871, she attempted to vote at the polls but was refused. At the same time her sister, Tennessee, was a candidate for Congress. In 1872, Victoria was nominated for the presidency of the United States by the National Woman Suffrage Association or the Equal Rights Party along with the negro, Frederick Douglass as vice-president. In 1892, she was again nominated for the presidency. These events happened in a day when Julia Ward Howe, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and others were ranked as ultra-conservative suffragists but not at all affiliated with the Woodhull Movement, very largely because they were in opposition to the debased life and character of Victoria Claflin Woodhull.

Victoria later became the head of the National Association of Spiritists and a nationally known lecturer on the rights of woman and of free love. While she received some support, for the most part, she met with much opposition. She published the Tilton-Beecher scandal in her weekly paper which resulted in numerous lawsuits and counter-lawsuits but she succeeded in crushing Tilton and Beecher as leaders in the church. Later in life she appeared to change the course of her career, and broken in health, she went to England to seek publicity and a reputation anew in more creditable ventures. She virtually reversed herself in her attitudes toward most of the social issues of which she had demonstrated herself such an ardent advocate

in earlier days. She was involved in almost interminable lawsuits and newspaper quarrels to disprove the sordid reputation of her past life. In her latter years she was held in repute for her work among the poor and for her benevolences. She died in England in 1927, the widow of a wealthy English broker and banker.

Dr. John I. Woodruff

Dr. John I. Woodruff was born on a farm in Penn Township near Selinsgrove, November 24, 1864. His early life was spent on his father's farm. He received his early education in the country schools. Before entering college, he taught two terms in the public schools. In 1885, he entered Missionary Institute and was graduated in 1888; he then entered the Junior Class at Bucknell University and graduated with the A. B. degree in 1890. He served as the principal of the Friends' Normal Institute at Rising Sun, Maryland, for one year, and then assumed the principalship of the Mifflintown Academy. In 1892 he was elected professor of Latin and History in Missionary Institute, and served until 1894 when he was granted a two-year leave of absence to take charge of Palatinate College, Myerstown, Pa. He returned to Susquehanna University in 1896 and served continuously as a faculty member until his retirement in June, 1939. He served as dean of the college for a number of years, and was made the acting president from August, 1901 to August, 1902, when he was succeeded by Dr. George W. Enders, of York, as president. Dr. Woodruff would have been elected president, but certain technicalities in the constitution prevented a layman from holding that position. Dr. Woodruff was recognized as a public speaker of ability and was constantly in demand to address church organizations and high school commencements, and to lecture before teachers' institutes.

In November, 1918, he was elected a member of the General Assembly and re-elected in 1920, serving two terms from January, 1919 to January, 1923. As a member of the House of Representatives, he cast his vote for the National Prohibition and Woman Suffrage Amendments to the Federal Constitution. He got the state to take over the dirt road along the Blue Hill and consequently to assume the obligation for the building of a state bridge across the Susquehanna River from Blue Hill to Northumberland, when the old toll bridge was destroyed by fire. Dr. Woodruff introduced a bill in the House providing that tolls be used to pay for the bridge at Sunbury. The House passed the bill but it was pigeon-holed in the Senate. Had the bill been reported out of committee and passed, the Sunbury Bainbridge Street bridge would likely be a free bridge by this time. Dr. Woodruff was also influential in getting the State Highway Department to improve Market and Walnut Streets in Selinsgrove, and to build a state road from the Selinsgrove borough line to Kratzerville.

While Dr. Toole succeeded in having the Pennsylvania Free Text-book Law enacted, Dr. Woodruff likewise proved himself a friend of education by his teachers' salary law. At the very time when the standards of teaching were none too high, and when opposition to education was still felt throughout the county, Dr. Woodruff knew that good schools demanded competent teachers, and that competent teachers could be had only by paying them adequate salaries. He introduced a bill into the legislature raising teacher salaries on the basis of higher qualification of teachers in both training and experience. His salary bill carried with it an appropriation of six million dollars for the biennium (1919-1921). It required the salaries of all teachers to be raised under penalty of forfeiture of the right to share in any future state appropriation for schools. The bill was passed by both houses and signed by Governor William C. Sproul, May, 1919. The teacher salary law was undoubtedly the most important piece of legis-

lation enacted in the 1919 session of the State Legislature. Dr. Woodruff was also instrumental in bringing about legislation concerning the closing of rural schools under certain conditions, and in having adjoining school districts unite to constitute a joint school district for school purposes.

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CHAPTER 34

A Native Son Becomes a National Celebrity

In the works of man as those of nature, it is the intention which is chiefly worth studying.

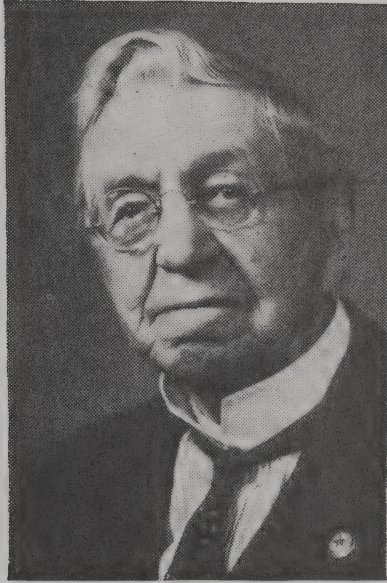
Goethe

People are not able to understand the life and character of Jacob S. Coxey unless they know something of the times in which he lived. Great men make history, but the reverse may be equally true. History furnishes numerous examples of unique personages that developed out of the social and economic conditions that prevailed in their day and age. If these conditions had been otherwise, probably such persons would never have risen above the ranks of mediocrity. Can we say that Jacob S. Coxey was born out of the economic struggles of the closing days of the nineteenth century? If this last decade of the last century had been different, would there have been any need to chronicle the life story of such a unique man? What were the economic conditions of the nation at that time?

Economic Conditions of the Early Nineties

The early nineties were troublous years in the fields of labor and industry. In 1892 there was a great strike for higher wages by the working men of the Carnegie Steel Works at Homestead near Pittsburgh. In the pitched battles that were fought between the strikers and policemen as well as with the 300 Pinkerton detectives employed by the company to protect its property, many men on both sides were killed. Finally, the National Guards were sent to Homestead to occupy the town and to preserve order. In 1894 several thousand working men employed by the Pullman Car Company near Chicago struck for higher wages. Employees on a number of western railroads in sympathy with the Pullman strikers struck in order to stop the use of Pullman cars until the company would raise wages. So violent was the strike that for a time trains ceased running between Chicago and San Francisco and other points, and much railroad property was destroyed. Finally, it became necessary to send government troops to Chicago and to certain places in California to protect the carrying of the mails and to maintain order. In the spring and summer of 1893, a great industrial and financial panic swept the country, bringing "hard times" to many people and adding fuel to the dissatisfaction of many thousands of working men. Property of all kinds fell in value, and multitudes were thrown out of employment. Strikes in the coal mines and on the railroads aggravated the distressed condition of the country. Widespread discontentment prevailed among the working

classes. Thousands of men out of employment took to the road, traveling afoot or boarding freight trains for any place in the hope that employment might be had. Farm products had a market value much below the cost of production. The farmers of the Middle West burned their corn for fuel rather than sell the corn at ten cents a bushel. The sharecroppers of the South became increasingly involved in debt because of five cent cotton. Meanwhile in 1894, a new money panic did an enormous damage to all kinds of business, and for the most part, made it harder than ever for men to get work.



Jacob Sechler Coxey
Photograph Taken in 1940

This widespread discontentment all over the country soon began to crystalize itself in a very unique manner. In the spring and summer of 1894, a large number of the industrially unemployed from Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, Montana, Oregon, Washington, California, and other states undertook a march to Washington to demand relief from the Federal Government. In all there were seventeen armies of the unemployed, numbering probably 10,000 men, on the march to the nation's capital at one time or another. The army that undoubtedly received the greatest publicity throughout the nation started from Massillon, Ohio, with "General Jacob

S. Coxey in command. Others, scarcely of less importance, were Fry's army from Los Angeles, Kelly's from San Francisco, Hogan's from Montana, Randall's from Chicago, and Shepard's from Oregon.

What types of men were in these armies on the march to Washington? The impression has been made that the men were nothing but bums, hoboes, and unemployables. On the contrary, it must be said that the majority of them were sincere, hard-working men, honestly seeking a way to earn a livelihood; others were young fellows who joined the march "just for the fun of the thing"; only a few were tramps and paupers. On the whole, they were sympathetic to organized labor, were unwilling to be scabs, and did not want to work for less than a living wage for themselves and their families. One reporter probably put it about right when he said:

These men are not tramps, but for the most part unskilled, uneducated working men, men just above the tramp class, who are the first to suffer during times of financial depression and the last to regain employment.

"General" Jacob S. Coxey, Massillon, Ohio, was the acknowledged leader of this widespread unrest among the laboring people of the country as it manifested itself in these marches to Washington to register dissatisfaction with the National Government. Coxey held some pet ideas to bring about economic restoration to the country by placing buying power again in the hands of those who no longer possessed it. He lost no time in capitalizing the dissatisfactions so prevalent among the industrially unemployed, and in bringing his proposed remedial measures before the whole country. The Commonwealth Army was not a sudden uprising among the unemployed. The idea had its inception in December, 1891, in the J. S. Coxey Good Roads Association of the United States, which demanded the improvement of the public roads throughout the nation by furnishing employment in road construction to the unemployed because of the introduction of labor-saving machinery. Coxey got the idea of good roads from his experiences in driving through the mud between his home and his sandstone quarry about four and one-half miles north of the city. With this general background of the movement, let us now confine ourselves to the Ohio Army and its personal leader, Jacob S. Coxey.

Life Sketch of Jacob S. Coxey

Jacob S. Coxey was born in a log-house on North Market Street, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1854. The log-house was located on the west side of the street on the north lot adjoining what

is now the Fisher Garage and Filling Station. It was a one and one-half story building, sixteen feet by thirty-two feet in size, with a lean-to in the rear and a small, roofed portico in the front with seats on each side of the portico. There are still many people living in Selinsgrove who remember the old Coxey log-house. This log-house was enlarged, remodeled, modernized, and stuccoed in 1912, and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O. Long.

The father, Thomas Coxey (1825-1897) was of English nativity and the mother, Mary Sechler Coxey (1820-1880) was of Pennsylvania German stock. Three children were born to this marriage: one son, Jacob Sechler Coxey, and two daughters, Lizzie and Martha. The father served as an engineer in a sawmill at Selinsgrove. At the time, Selinsgrove was an important lumber town. Logs were floated down the Susquehanna River every spring, and were turned into lumber by the sawmills of this community. In 1860 the Coxey family moved to Danville, Montour County, where young Coxey attended the public schools and one private school until he was sixteen years old. As a young man, Coxey worked in the Iron Rolling Mills in Danville, first as a water boy, then as an oiler, and finally as a stationary engineer. Young Coxey worked on the night shift while his father served on the day shift. The building in which the Coxey family worked is still standing. Coxey continued at this work until the age of twenty-four years when he entered the scrap-iron business, in which he continued for about two years. In 1880 he moved to Massillon, Ohio, where he became the owner and manager of a gravel and silica sandstone quarry that furnished the sand for the iron, steel, and glass industries of many states and of the Dominion of Canada. Coxey continued in this business until 1929.

The house in which the Coxey family lived in Danville is located on East Market Street, not far from the present high school building. The father, Thomas Coxey, died in 1897, and the mother, Mary Sechler Coxey, died in 1880. Both are buried in the Episcopal Cemetery located north-east of the town, a short distance west of the State Hospital. The Coxey family seems to have disappeared completely from Danville and vicinity, but the Sechler family still continues as a large and representative family in that community.

Coxey was married twice in his life. In 1874 he married Caroline Ammerman by whom he had three sons and one daughter: Jesse A. (deceased), Mary, Horace L., and Albert H. (deceased). In 1890 he married Henrietta Jones by whom he also had three sons and one daughter: Jacob

S., Legal Tender (deceased), David N., and Ruth Patricia. His home since 1881 has been Massillon, Ohio. The building is a capacious frame building situated on a terrace surrounded by a concrete wall. It has a closed-in front porch. Coxey has come back to Selinsgrove at least twice. He passed through Selinsgrove in May, 1895. He visited his birthplace again in August, 1925. At that time he traveled by automobile from Baltimore on the Susquehanna Trail. The town had changed so much in the interim that he had to inquire the name of the place. He stopped over night at the local hotel.

Personal Appearance

Coxey is a man of medium height and weight with a noticeable stooping posture. His bushy growth of white hair, his way of combing it, the large spectacles, smooth-shaven face, prominent teeth, and the stand-up collar with large necktie give him a very distinctive appearance. Coxey is remarkably energetic and well-preserved for a man of his years. The experience of walking about the city with him in 1940, climbing long, steep stairways to reach the photographer's shop and the office of the editor of the Massillon EVENING INDEPENDENT reminded me of a man much younger. His tremulous hand, the prominent wrinkles in his face, and his stooping posture were about the only real signs of extreme age. As the well-known figure walked about the streets and business places of Massillon, he was greeted by all alike, young and old, as "General", and was treated with much deference. Speaking to different people at the hotel and in the barbershop, without making my identity and purpose known, I found that without exception the people held him in great esteem and respect. Undoubtedly, "General" Coxey is Massillon's most widely-known citizen today.

In mind he appears to be equally vigorous. There is little or no evidence of wandering attention and of desultory memory. To the contrary, he thinks logically with sustained attention. He recalled the facts and data of his life with amazing readiness. He was a ready conversationalist who knew how to use good English. In fact, he appeared to talk better than he wrote. He found much pleasure in explaining his economic theories, possessed a fine sense of humor, enjoyed telling a story, and told it well, and laughed heartily. In partnership with his son, he was still actively interested in the coal-mining industry. I once asked him when he intended to retire. "Never, when a man retires, he dies. I don't want to die. Life is too interesting." When I asked him to what he attributed his vigor and age, he felt certain that

temperate living, thorough mastication of foods, and the proper and regular elimination of the body wastes were very largely the responsible factors. It took him usually almost twice as long to finish his meal as it did me. I was impressed by his unsolicited comment: "Professor, I think the time will come when you will have to change your eating habits if you wish to keep up with me." Coxey never used tobacco in any form, and considers cigarette smoking by our young people of both sexes today an abominable habit.

About his financial status today, I know little or nothing: I didn't wish to inquire of the business people of Massillon, or much less ask him about it. In fact, I never had any interest in Coxey from that standpoint. The general impression of the home didn't indicate to me the presence of great wealth. Coxey told me that at one time he had considerable money but spent most of it in promulgating his economic views and financing his political campaigns. Evidently, his gravel and sand business was productive of great wealth, and his Kentucky farm of thoroughbred race horses gave him pleasure. The Massillon EVENING INDEPENDENT some years ago, had the following to say about Coxey's financial condition:

Owing to the time and money devoted to the cause of its chief promoter, Jacob S. Coxey, the opinion obtains in many quarters that he is immensely wealthy, being rated frequently as a millionaire. There is no basis for this belief, for among the business men here, he is rated far from wealthy, and the wonder is how he has been able to carry his literary bureau up to this point. Those who know him best are willing to accord him credit for honesty of conviction, but they do not credit him with being practical enough to have made so much a business success as to have amassed a fortune.

Coxey became a nationally known character in 1894 when he led his army of jobless to the nation's capital to demand redress from the Federal Government. He wanted to use the unemployed in the building of good roads for the nation. The money for this public improvement was to be provided by non-interest bearing, twenty-five year bonds. In other words, the purpose of the crusade was "to protest against any further robbery by interest upon bonds based on the public credit when the same credit could be used to issue other pieces of notes or legal tender without any interest or profit to the banks". Although nothing tangible in the nature of corrective legislation was accomplished by this march, the impression was definitely left upon the country that something was radically wrong in the economy of things. Coxey must not be classified as a Wat Tyler or a Jack Cade, for no

blood was shed, the nation's capital was not attacked, and no attempt was put forth to overthrow the government. The movement hardly corresponds to Shay's Rebellion after the Revolutionary War. The movement was unique in that it wasn't led by a radical. Coxey was a man of good repute, and was considered a successful business man.

The depression of 1893 affected his business seriously and thereby awakened his social consciousness. At that time there were probably four million men unemployed in the whole country. He saw with his own eyes the distressed condition of the working classes and, consequently, became a zealous supporter of the cause of the unemployed. He vigorously supported the farmers against five cent cotton, ten cent corn, and fifty cent wheat. He believed that by making money plentiful, hard times could be brought to an end. Coxey took active steps to further two bills in Congress whose ostensible purpose was to improve the industrial conditions of the nation through the reduction of unemployment. The first bill, known as the "Good Roads Bill", proposed that the National Government should issue \$500,000,000 in legal tender, non-interest bearing notes for the employment of the jobless in the building of a net-work of good roads throughout the nation. The Secretary of the Treasury was to be instructed to have engraved and printed this amount in treasury notes of various denominations. These notes were to be legal tender for all debts and were to be expended for road construction. This appropriation was to be prorated among the states and territories in proportion to the number of miles of public road each state and territory had. The Secretary of War was to supervise the improvements contemplated by the bill and to spend \$20,000,000 per month to carry out its intents. Only American citizens were to be employed in this national road building project, and no contract labor was to be permitted. All wages were to be by the day at \$1.50 for common labor and \$3.50 for a team and man. Eight hours were to constitute a day's labor.

This proposed measure was designed especially to benefit the rural communities; and another bill attempted to provide for the urban communities, in like manner by the issue of non-interest bearing bonds by any state, county, or municipality for the improvement of city streets, and the erection of public buildings and other public enterprises. This second bill, known as the "Non-interest Bearing Bond Bill" provided that "whenever any state, territory, or municipality, shall deem it necessary to make public improvements, it shall deposit with the Secretary of the Treasury a non-interest bearing, twenty-five year

bond, not to exceed half the assessed evaluation of the property, exclusive of its indebtedness and improvements, whereupon, the Secretary of the Treasury was required to issue Treasury notes for the face value of the local bond, and deliver to the municipality ninety-nine per cent of the note issue and retain one per cent to cover the cost of engraving and printing". William A. Pepper, the Populist Senator from Kansas, introduced the two bills into Congress March 19, 1894, covering these proposals. Despite the efforts of Senator Pepper and others, these two bills were later reported unfavorable to the Senate, and Coxey's economic schemes to end unemployment and to restore normal times came to naught. The reason for this utter disregard of Coxey's proposed legislation is not difficult to see. It was too novel and too socialistic for the times, and hence was scoffed at and repudiated as the idle dream of a visionary.

Coxey's Army on the March

The Commonweal Army under the command of "General" Coxey left Massillon, Ohio, on Easter Sunday morning, March 25, 1894, for Washington. Carle Brown, Coxey's son-in-law, was the Chief Marshal of the army with Louis Smith as the assistant marshal. The plan of organization called for a division into groups of five men each; then these groups made up companies of one hundred men, and the companies made up regiments of two hundred or more. The men were given a certain amount of training, were taught to salute their leaders, and were taught to keep in line on the march. The entire arrangement was based on the plan of the military.

As the Commonweal Army left Massillon, Jasper Johnson, a negro, bore the American flag and led the procession. Johnson was followed by the chief marshal and by Jesse Coxey, the 'general's' sixteen year old son, both riding on horseback; then came "General" Coxey riding in a phaeton, followed by a carriage containing Mrs. Coxey and her infant son, Legal Tender, and other members of the Coxey family. At the head of the column of the several hundred unemployed men went the color-bearer carrying the Banner of the Commonweal of Christ. The official banner gave the movement a religious aspect, for it bore in the center a representation of a large oil-painting of Christ with the inscription: "Peace on earth, good will toward men, but death to interest-bearing bonds." Then came the assistant marshal, mounted and in direct command of the army. The newspapers gave the whole affair much publicity. At the beginning of the march, there were present forty-nine representatives of the press, six-

teen of whom accompanied the army all the way to Washington.

It is impossible to tell just how many men were really in the line of march. New enlistments along the way, as well as many desertions, caused great variations in numbers. It is perhaps safe to assert that the number varied from a few more than a hundred to about five hundred before the army reached the District of Columbia. The army traveled on an average about fifteen miles per day. Its practice was to start the march about ten o'clock in the morning and quit late in the afternoon. The army carried with it a circus tent, fifty feet in diameter, in which the men slept on straw with such covering as they had brought with them. Heat was supplied by open fires. On particularly chilly nights, the men were oftentimes privileged to sleep in a jail, town-hall, or in other nearby buildings. A headquarters tent was provided for the leaders, officers, and teamsters. At times the quality and quantity of food proved unsatisfactory and caused no little dissatisfaction. Public meetings were held along the line of march, an admission fee was charged, and addresses on Coxey's economic theories were made to the men and to the general public. Before the march began, food was collected and three commissary wagons were used to transport it to insure food along the way. Food was shipped also to points along the line of march where it might be most needed. For the most part, however, the army lived upon the country through which it passed. The people were expected to supply the necessary food and shelter.

The route followed by the Commonweal Army led through Canton, Alliance, Leetonia, Salem, East Palestine, New Galilee, Columbiana, Beaver Falls, Sewickley, Economy, Allegheny, and Pittsburgh. When the army passed through Beaver Falls, the mills were shut down to permit the working men to view the parade. By the time the army reached Pittsburgh, it had doubled in numbers. In that area great crowds assembled to see the strange procession. In fact, in many places the army attracted so many of the curious and interested that it partook the nature of a circus day parade. Leaving Pittsburgh, the army marched through Homestead, Duquesne, McKeesport, Monongahela City, Findlayville, Bentleyville, Brownsville, Uniontown, Somerfield, Addison, Grantville, Frostburg, Cumberland, Hancock, Williamsport, Hagerstown, Boonsboro, Frederick, Rockville, and finally reached Washington. At Cumberland, Coxey loaded the men, horses, wagons, and supplies into coal barges as freight and had them shipped ninety miles on the Chesapeake and Ohio

Canal to Williamsport, Maryland. This part of the trip took two days and cost Coxey eighty-five dollars as freight charges.

The public and many of the authorities along the line of march seemed alarmed about the whole affair. The European journalists saw in Coxey's Army the beginning of a reign of anarchism in the United States. William McKinley, then governor of Ohio, issued an official statement that he believed the stories of alarm over Coxey's Army were greatly exaggerated. If trouble did result, McKinley believed that the local authorities would be fully competent to handle it, although he expressed a willingness to give aid if it were asked for. For the most part, however, the marchers were well-behaved and little disorder occurred anywhere, along the line of march. It must be said, to the credit of the whole organization, that at no time were radicals in control of the movement. The men really endured great hardships. Blinding snow-storms, muddy and slushy roads, and severely cold weather frequently aggravated their discomfort. The people along the way often furnished the men with meals and usually supplied them with shelter for the night. Some of the newspapers of that day left the impression that all this was done, not because the people were really interested in the movement, but in the hope that the army would pass on without resorting to pillaging.

Coxey's Experiences in Washington

After a march of thirty-five days from Massillon, Ohio, the army reached Washington, May 1, 1894, and went into camp at Brightwood Park in the District of Columbia. About 10,000 people had assembled to see the sight. The army, personally commanded by Coxey and reinforced by other groups, totalled about 5,000 men who represented about 3,000,000 of the unemployed. It is variously estimated that probably never more than a thousand were in Washington at any one time. Coxey secured permission to parade in the city. He also called upon the Vice-President of the United States and the Speaker of the House for permission to hold a meeting on the Capitol steps. This request was neither granted nor denied. Although the nation's capitol had no special reason to fear trouble, yet every precaution was taken to prevent the outbreak of a riot. Special policemen were sworn in, the guards on the Capitol grounds were doubled, and several thousand troops were held at close call for any emergency. Although Coxey was given the privilege to parade through the streets of the city, processions

with banners on the Capitol grounds were strictly forbidden. Coxey evidently felt that he was the leader of a great movement. Encouraged by the reports that thousands of unemployed were on the way to join him, and having come a great distance to carry out a great mission, he resolved to speak from the Capitol steps, despite the warnings of the police authorities.

The procession moved up Pennsylvania Avenue between lines of policemen and spectators with bands playing and banners waving, but, when Coxey attempted to address the crowd, he was forthwith placed under arrest, and was charged with having disturbed "the peace and government of the United States, of unlawfully entering the grounds of the Capitol with the displaying of banners, for treading on the turf or grass, and for destroying shrubbery". The sentence imposed upon Coxey was twenty days in jail and five dollars fine for walking on the lawn of the Capitol grounds and for stepping upon plants, shrubs, and the turf. When the Senate of the United States refused to interfere, the penalties were duly paid. The whole affair proved very unfortunate. The leaders and members of the Commonweal Army undoubtedly acted within their constitutional rights as American citizens. There was neither rioting nor disorderly conduct on the part of anybody, yet the police resorted to physical force in dealing with an apparently harmless situation.

Since the leaders of the movement had been taken into custody by the police, the army was led back to camp by Coxey's son and daughter, Jesse and Mary Coxey. It remained there for some time until it was ordered to leave by the Public Health authorities of the District of Columbia. Transportation for the men back to the localities from which they had come was made possible by the District of Columbia and by certain individuals. By the latter part of the summer of 1894, the army had practically disappeared from Washington. Although the Coxey movement did not secure the desired results, it nevertheless cannot be thrust aside as of no consequence. The movement has to be accepted as symptomatic of an internal economic condition that demanded a remedy.

The Later Career of Coxey

The net results of the march was to make Coxey famous. In fact, many people looked upon him as a martyr to the cause of the unemployed and to free speech. From this time on, Coxey was very much in the political lime-light, and was almost a perennial candidate for public office. It becomes very evident in his career that Coxey never was content to remain for a long time within the

ranks of any political party. He can best be classified as an independent in politics, although for the most part, when a candidate for office, he allied himself with some political party. Anyone who knows the mind of Coxey can well understand these political wanderings. His parents were Democrats, and young Coxey followed their political faith until 1877. He then deserted the party because he felt it was no longer true to its original doctrines, such as opposition to the National Banking System and favoring the printing and the issuing of legal tender money for all government needs as advocated by Jefferson and Jackson. Coxey became a Greenbacker because he felt much admiration for Lincoln who authorized greenbacks to pay the soldiers and to buy war supplies. Later on, Coxey espoused the cause of the Populist or Peoples' Party; then he became an Independent, next a Republican, a member of the Farmers' Labor Party, and in 1941 a Democrat. In the Democratic Primaries in 1941, Coxey was a candidate for the mayoralty of Massillon, but was defeated. The platform of his campaign declared that "the people shall own and operate all public utilities such as water, light, and distribute natural gas, at cost of service to all".

Coxey became interested in politics largely because of the money question. In 1885 he was a candidate for the State Senate of Ohio. In 1894 he became the Populist candidate for Congress from Ohio, and in 1895 and 1897 he was the Populist candidate for the governorship. In 1914 he led a second army to Washington, and this time he actually succeeded in speaking from the Capitol steps. Very little publicity was given to this march at the time. In 1916 he was an independent candidate for the United States Senate from Ohio. In 1919 and in 1929 he threatened to march again, but never got started. He was a candidate for Congress in the Republican Primaries in 1928 and 1930. He was the Farmer-Labor candidate for the Presidency of the United States in 1932 and 1936. He was the Republican candidate for the United States Senate from Ohio in 1934 and was again a candidate for Congress in 1936. He usually ran on a platform of non-interest bearing bonds and money at cost. Because of his enthusiasm for monetary reform, he named one of his sons "Legal Tender" Coxey. Coxey felt this name would be a constant reminder of the great significance of the power of the government to coin money, fix the value, and make it legal tender in the payment of all debts. Shortly after the World War I, he threatened to march again if \$5,000,000,000 were not issued for the benefit of the unemployed.

Jacob S. Coxey was politically active over a long

period of time in our nation's history. Coxey is a veteran of numerous political and economic wars. He sought seats in Congress, both in the Senate and the House, a number of times; he was the candidate for the governorship of Ohio; and candidate twice for the Presidency of the United States. Only once was he elected to the mayoralty on two major planks of his platform:

1. That non-interest bearing bonds, ranging in denomination from twenty-five cents to one hundred dollars should be issued to pay for public improvements with the use of city labor.
2. That public ownership and operation of utilities such as municipal water works should be had in order to keep the money at home instead of consigning it to Wall Street.

Coxey's Economic Theories

The traditional way to finance public improvements is through the issue of interest-bearing bonds by the state, county, municipalities, or district. These bonds are made usually to mature at certain specified times and to bear a specified rate of interest. These bonds are then bought by the money-lenders, and the cash is used to bring about the proposed public improvement. By the time these bonds are retired at the end of twenty or twenty-five years, the state, county, municipality, or district has paid double their face value because of the interest rates on the bonds. Coxey considered such a method of financing any public improvement, for the benefit of the general public, unjust to the taxpayers. He proposed to substitute a legal tender cash money system for the credit system and to abolish interest-bearing bonds as applied to public improvements.

Let us consider Coxey's plan to finance a public improvement. Whenever any public improvement, such as a schoolhouse, a municipal water plant, a sewage-disposal system, a gas plant, or an electric-lighting system would be contemplated, the municipality in question would issue twenty-five year non-interest bearing bonds, not in excess of one-half the assessed valuation of the property, exclusive of improvements and any indebtedness on it. These bonds would then be deposited with the United States Secretary of the Treasury for legal tender currency to an amount equivalent to the face value of the bonds less the cost of processing. These bonds would be retired at the rate of four per cent per annum by the money raised through property taxes or by rates, fares, or service fees, as the case might be. Since such bonds are non-interest bearing, the entire bond issue could be retired at practically the issue value. In other words, the public improvement

would cost the taxpayers exactly the production cost. This plan was incorporated in a bill H. R. 12288, was introduced into the House of Representatives, March 21, 1928, by Representative Guy E. Campbell of Pennsylvania, and was referred to the Banking and Currency Committee. In fact, Coxey's bill providing for the issue of non-interest bearing bonds was introduced in eleven different Congresses since his famous march on the national capitol in 1894. Coxey has frequently appeared in behalf of this bill before the Ways and Means Committee and the Banking and Currency Committee of the House and Senate.

The question may well be raised whether such a proposed nationalization of legal tender would not throw an excess of money into circulation. There ought always be enough money in circulation to satisfy the demands of trade. When this principle is violated, however, either by too much money or not enough money in circulation to meet the needs of the country, then the economic condition of the country becomes seriously disturbed, the abnormal raising and lowering of prices follow and depressions and panics usually result. Some opponents of the measure have declared that the Coxey Plan is in essence a fiat money scheme, and that practically no limit could be placed on the amount of money in circulation, particularly so because of the overlapping of the state, county, municipality, or district for public improvement purposes. The fact is there is much overlapping under the present system. Even without this overlapping, the opponents of the plan asserted that this increased money in circulation would mean increased assessed valuations, and still more money could be put into circulation. To them all this would mean inflation of the worst type with all of its direful consequences.

To all such criticisms, Coxey replied that the assessed valuation of the property of a community minus improvements and the indebtedness thereon, the amount of unemployment, and the need for public improvement would act upon society like a governor upon a steam engine in the way of regulating the amount of money put into circulation. Furthermore, as these bonds would be retired at the rate of four per cent per annum by money obtained through taxation or otherwise, the legal tender currency notes issued originally in place of interest-bearing bonds would be cancelled and withdrawn from circulation. By this plan, the necessary measures to prevent too much money in circulation at any one time would always be operative to provide the necessary safeguards. Coxey likened his plan to a non-interest bearing postage stamp that had to be paid for to carry the letter to its destina-

tion, but after it had served that purpose, there would be no further need for it, and therefore, it would be cancelled.

This newly-coined money, returned to the district in an equivalent amount to the face value of the bond issue, would by no means be a gratuity. The government would hold a lien on the assessed valuation of the property of the districts until the bonds would be retired. In this way the government would protect itself for the money issued to the district in exchange for the bonds deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury to an amount of property values double the issue of the bonds. Bonds do not need to be backed by gold since they are already backed by the assessed valuation of the property of the district. Some people appear to believe that the metals only, such as gold, silver, copper, and nickel, can be used as money. The fact is that anything may be used as money so long as it carries the authority and seal of the Congress of the United States.

Personal Convictions and Points of View

Coxey is a man of profound political convictions. He is absolutely certain that he knows the cause and the cure of the economic ills of this country. He is a man of one idea and then he works that idea for all it is worth. After years of profound thinking as a businessman, he came to certain conclusions concerning money matters, and fifty and more years of thinking have not materially changed his views, but have rather confirmed them. As a business man, he has lived through the bitter experiences of three major panics, 1873, 1893, and 1929, and has emerged from them with the conviction that the cause of our financial panics is the break-down of the credit system through the calling of loans. Since so much of the business of the country is done on credit, a person can readily see that when credit breaks down, business must break down likewise. The pyramiding of credit is usually the fore-runner of a financial panic. When a purchase is made and no cash money is available to make a cash sale, then a promissory note is issued made payable in a given time. In the meantime, the holder of the note needs cash and has his note discounted and receives credit subject to bank checks. Instead of a huge credit system, Coxey would have enough cash in circulation to put away with the huge credit system, and make it possible for every man to pay cash rather than to extend his credit.

It must be perfectly clear by this time that Coxey does not believe in the payment of interest for the use of money for public improvements. He thinks interest

on money used for public improvements should be abolished, and money should be made free and expended on such improvements by putting idle men to work. In the face of such a revolutionary proposal, what then is a moneyed man to do with his money if he cannot invest it in interest-bearing bonds? Henry Ford didn't put his money on interest; he put it into production. This is exactly what Coxey suggests others should do. According to the Coxey Plan, private capital is not to lie idle and draw interest. It is required to engage in business for productive purposes. If the moneyed man doesn't wish to put his money in production directly, then he is to lend it for such purposes but at a very low rate of interest.

Coxey hasn't any room in his life for mere political expediency. He believes that the good citizen lives and acts on the basis of his convictions. Here is a statement gleaned from a conversation that shows his thought along such lines:

I have consistently appealed to the thinking of my people in my different political campaigns instead of their prejudices. Any progress made by appealing to the people must necessarily be much slower, but it is far more enduring. You can win more votes by a barrel of beer than by a whole ton of literature, but that has never been my way of campaigning.

Coxey is a firm advocate of the initiative, referendum, and the recall as the way of settling great issues. Such methods are thoroughly democratic and afford the people the kind of government the level of their intelligence will make possible. He believes the initiative and the referendum place responsibility directly upon the people instead of upon their representatives. The people themselves initiate and consummate their own laws. They have to assume full responsibility for their government since they themselves now do the governing. They have to praise or censure themselves for the kind of government under which they live. Such a situation impels citizens to think through government problems in order to decide wisely and well. By the initiative and the referendum the citizens really produce legislation and then have to live under the legislation they have produced. Coxey thinks this is democracy in spirit as well as in form.

Coxey proposed a simplified method of amending the Federal Constitution and of enacting a Federal statute by the direct vote of the people. He believed that the constitution should be amended so that "upon the petition being signed by one million legal voters, for any proposed Federal Constitutional Amendment, or statutory law, that such petition may pray for, thereupon it shall become

mandatory upon the Secretary of State to notify the executive of every state to call a special election in that state within sixty days, when such proposed amendment or law shall be submitted to all the people for their approval or rejection by a majority vote at such election". Coxey caused such a bill to be introduced in the sixty-seventh Congress, and lobbied industriously for it, but the bill never became a law. Coxey was an active supporter of the Seventeenth Amendment providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people; he also supported the Nineteenth Amendment extending the privilege of voting to the women. He did not, however, support the Eighteenth Amendment since he believed social and moral problems should be settled by the direct vote of the people and not by a Constitutional Amendment adopted by Congress and ratified by the State Legislatures. He deplored the vastness of the liquor traffic today, its hold upon the political and social life of the people, and its waste of the natural resources of the country. He thinks the church with its narrow denominationalism hasn't at all risen to the opportunities of transforming the life of the nation. Only too frequently a man's religion is considered fixed, something to be preserved as it is, whereas, he thinks it ought to be a constantly changing leaven in the everyday life of the people.

An Evaluation of Coxey by the Press and Contemporaries

The inquiring mind is eager to know what evaluation has been placed by the public press and by contemporary writers upon the character and achievements of "General" Coxey. Many newspaper men and magazine writers appear to have been motivated by a desire to compose a good story even though at times it had to be done at variance with the facts. The people who get their information about Coxey and his movement from newspapers and magazines of the early nineties can never hope to know and understand the real Coxey and his program.

Coxey unwittingly attained notoriety by doing the usual in an unusual way. Coxey seemed predisposed frequently to do the spectacular. His campaign for the mayoralty of Massillon was conducted in that fashion. He toured the city in a coach drawn by two horses driven by a negro coachman. He showed his audiences a bottle of muddy water to demonstrate that Massillon's money was going to Wall Street so that the financiers could drink their cocktails while the people back home had to be content with muddy water.

The following are a few of the quotations culled from the newspapers of 1894 when he led his army of the jobless to Washington:

Coxey is a phenomena. He is either a fool or is eagerly searching for notoriety or it may be both. The two bills introduced into Congress are as impractical as the methods in their behalf are visionary.

Coxey is a man of wealth, a dreamer of dreams, and a breeder of blooded horses.

A horsedealer from Massillon who led a few hundred hoboes and tramps to Washington.

Coxey is a capable speaker and invariably captivates his audiences. His ideas of economic reform are novel and spectacular.

Coxey is an affable gentleman. His eyes are the eyes of a dreamer, the eyes of an enthusiast who sees through what he considers a world of injustice to Utopia, a Utopia to be reached only by following his directions.

Many of the historians and contemporary writers confine their accounts of Coxey and his industrial army to a bare statement of a few facts or omit all reference to him entirely. Some refer to him only in a footnote. The reader who is interested further in the historian's evaluation of Coxey would do well to consult the texts referred to in the Selected Readings at the end of the chapter.

Personal Evaluation of Coxey

A person might easily gain the impression from reading the newspapers and magazines about Coxey that he is presumptuous and egotistical, an impractical schemer, a visionary, a sensationalist, a notoriety seeker, a political agitator, a radical, or a socialistic crank with a hobo following. In my personal associations with him, I have found him none of these. On the contrary he impressed me with his modesty and sincerity, yet he proved himself militant in the advocacy of what he believes is right. He is not at all disposed to compromise. His economic theories may be considered impractical or at least controversial. I consider Coxey a happy warrior, a stalwart champion of an unselfish cause, a person possessed with an indomitable enthusiasm for his program, and a man undismayed in his crusade for a new and better day for everybody.

In the face of unremitting labors without much success, and with a single exception, always defeated as a candidate for public office, one would normally expect Coxey to be a disillusioned old man, a suffering hero, a man out of sorts with the world, and possessed of a defeatist attitude. On the contrary, however, he is still an enthusiastic crusader and lives in the confident hope that right is might and must ultimately prevail. Clear of mind, keen of memory, and as deeply interested in his program as ever, he continues to live in the hope of a

better day. And Coxey believes that better day will come when the people will understand his proposal and will subordinate prejudice to reason.

There is no gainsaying that Coxey has been an unusual man in many respects. His economic proposals were novel and unheard of at the time. When he found himself unable to approve some things that were done in politics, the form of protest that occurred to him was military. Coxey has invariably been a man of one idea at a time in his life. When he became interested in a project, he became interested all over in that project, even to the probable neglect of his business and family. When a man proposes a plan to provide economic relief for the unfortunate many at the expense of the favored few, it is to be expected that the plan will meet with opposition and even ridicule. In such a case, the general public is likely to hear only one side of the story. This is exactly what happened to Coxey and his proposed measures of relief.

It is my best judgment that too many people have not been led to see this man in his true perspective. My personal observations and impressions of him are decidedly favorable. The many sides of his personality captivated me. I have read much of what others have written about him. I have associated rather intimately with him. I conferred with people in his home city and elsewhere who know him very well, and I am convinced that Jacob S. Coxey, even to this day, is a much misunderstood man. I am certain that the people generally know Coxey for what he is not. Whatever I may be able to do in the future to interpret the real Coxey to the people will always afford me much personal happiness and great satisfaction. The personal associations with him, the interesting conversations, and the experiences as a guest in his home in Massillon will ever remain a very happy memory in my life.

Selected Readings

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McMurray, Donald L., COXEY'S ARMY

Morison and Commager, THE GROWTH OF THE
AMERICAN REPUBLIC, Vol. II

Sullivan, Mark, OUR TIMES: THE TURN OF THE
CENTURY

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PEOPLE

CHAPTER 35

Old Landmarks of the County

I desire no future that will break the ties of the past.
George Eliot

Under the general caption of "old landmarks" in this chapter are described those agencies and institutions of the county that at one time were considered indispensable in the lives of the people, but which long ago outlived their usefulness. They served their day and generation, and there was no social need for them anymore. Consequently, they ceased to exist. No attempt is made to cover the entire field of old landmarks since that would be beside our purpose. Only the more common agencies and institutions, especially those that have particular application to our county, are given consideration.

The Old Oaken Bucket Well

An old landmark of the county was the draw-well or, as it was more popularly called, the old oaken bucket well. This kind of well, however, was not so common years ago throughout the county as in some other localities. Very few of these wells have remained to the present day. The earliest types were probably only a trifle further advanced than were the wells of centuries ago where a bucket was let down into the well by means of a rope attached to it, and when filled with water, was brought to the surface with man power. At a little later period, a long pole or wooden lever was used with a weight attached to the one end and a wooden bucket was fastened by a rope to the opposite end with a fulcrum at some distance between. This device was employed because of the mechanical advantage it afforded in raising the bucket. Later came the draw-well by which the water was lifted from the well by means of a windlass. On this windlass was wound enough rope with the bucket attached to reach to the water in the well. The well was usually about four feet in diameter and varied considerably in depth according to its locality. The well was walled in, and its top was covered with a gable-shaped cover or roof for the protection of the windlass and rope from the weather.

The drop-bucket was usually made of oak wood, had a capacity of about three gallons, and was barrel-shaped so that it would dip the water freely, and was bound with from four to six strong iron hoops. The handle of the bucket was made of iron, about one-half inch round iron with a loop facing upward for the rope. This heavy iron made the bucket top-heavy and enabled it to tilt readily upon striking the water. This furnished the explanation

for the poetic expression—"the old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket, the moss-covered bucket, that hung in the well" in Samuel G. Woodworth's poem. The water drawn from such a well was always cold and fresh, and proved a great delight to any one privileged to have a drink of good, clear, fresh water.

Livery Stables

A livery stable is generally defined as "a stable where horses and vehicles are kept for hire, and where stabling is provided". Livery stables were very common at the beginning of the century. They have outlived their usefulness and have ceased to exist. The automobiles eliminated the horse and buggy from the public roads, and these in turn compelled the livery stables to close their doors, and their owners and managers to seek new ways of earning a livelihood. This is just another illustration of the fact that agencies and institutions persist in their existence just so long as there is a need for their existence. During the years when horse-drawn vehicles were used as means of public conveyance, livery stables and hostlers were the indispensables in every town of any size. Many families found it either too expensive or too impractical to own a horse and buggy, and hence had to depend on livery for their conveyance. In this way, livery came into existence and, for the most part, did a thriving business in their respective communities. Before the advent of the automobiles, Selinsgrove had at least four livery stables that flourished at one and the same time. These were the livery stable on the site of the present Lose Motor Company on East Chestnut Street, the livery stable on the present Potteiger home on West Chestnut Street, the livery stable back of the present Governor Snyder Hotel, and the livery stable back of the present Stanley Theatre building. At a little later date there was a livery stable on West Pine Street.

Spring invariably proved to be a busy season of the year for the livery stables. A pretty and spirited horse and a fancy buggy were in great demand by the young couples of that day. Spring was also the season for the traveling salesmen who were eager to solicit the country and town merchants at the earliest opportunity to travel, made possible by the condition of the dirt roads which were frequently impassable during the winter months. These salesmen made up a large part of the livery trade. They usually hired others to drive them about the countryside, paying the drivers wages ranging from fifty cents to one dollar per day for their services. This wage was considered quite a handsome sum in those days. Another busy time for the livery stables was the summer picnic season.

Then the head of the family would hire a team and carriage to take the family to the picnic grounds at Verdilla, Grubb's and other places.

The person who took care of the horses and vehicles at the livery stable was known as a hostler. The life of a hostler was a strenuous one to say the least. His day was long and hard, usually beginning at five o'clock in the morning and ending at ten or eleven o'clock at night. This long day was made necessary by early morning calls for a team and late returnings of the team at the end of the trip. Many times the hostler found it not only expedient, but even necessary to sleep in the stable. The hostler was entrusted sometimes with the care of from fifteen to eighteen horses and with many different vehicles. The horses had to be kept continually in good condition, bedded, fed, and well-groomed, and the harness and vehicles always had to be kept clean and in good repair. The rental prices of horses and vehicles varied with the length of the trip and the time consumed. A trip to Mt. Pleasant Mills or to Middleburg carried a rental of \$1.50, and beyond these places \$2.00; while a trip to Freeburg or to Kreamer was only \$1.00. When a carriage was required, the rental was generally fixed at \$3.00. When salesmen hired a horse and buggy for a full day, a flat rate of \$1.50 was charged or \$2.50 for a double team. A special fee of \$2.00 was charged for funerals and included the horse and buggy and a driver. Once in a great while the patron of the livery stable turned out to be a crook and failed to return the horse and vehicle in the allotted time, or sometimes not at all. These, of course, were rare occurrences, but when they did happen, they proved to be the source of considerable inconvenience to the hostler, and a financial loss for the owner and proprietor.

Wayside Watering Troughs

The necessities of one age are likely to be the relics of some succeeding age. This statement can be substantiated by scores of examples from the every-day life of the people. The wayside watering trough furnishes a case in point. When horses, mules, and even oxen provided the power for travel, transportation, and communication, the wayside watering troughs were an absolute necessity. Domestic animals had to be provided with fresh water as well as with food at regular intervals on any journey of considerable length. To meet this need, watering troughs were constructed at suitable places along the road. The water was supplied from a flowing brook, near-by spring, or even from a pump. The water was conducted from its source to the watering trough by means

of a V-shaped wooden trough, a drilled log, or by a wooden or iron pipe line. Fifty years ago, watering troughs were a very familiar sight along country roads and in front of inns or taverns. Memory clearly recalls watering troughs along the gap road between Middleburg and Fremont, along the hill between Kreamer and Freeburg, the watering place for cattle (die ochse drenk) near the White Top Schoolhouse, the Laudenslager's artesian well of sulphur water at Fair Oak, the Samuel Hilbish farm west of Freeburg, and at Bake Oven Hill below Selinsgrove. Troughs were found along well-traveled roads all over the county. When the gasoline-propelled automobile and truck began to replace the horse-drawn carriages, stage-coach, and wagon, the disappearance of the public watering trough from country roads, and public places took place. The watering trough had outlived its usefulness; therefore, it soon ceased to exist.

The first wayside watering troughs were hollowed-out logs, then came into use the plank troughs, and finally the trough made out of galvanized iron. The first type of trough was constructed out of a log about eight feet long and from two to three feet in diameter, hewn and hollowed out. The most commonly-used wood was white or yellow poplar. The log had to be carefully selected since it had to be free from knots and cracks or fissures, commonly known as shakes. The second log from the butt-end was usually chosen since it was more likely to have the requisite dimensions and was more uniform in diameter. The bark was removed from the log by means of a spud, the log was squared by the broadaxe, and was hollowed out by an adze. The life of a log trough was about thirty years. When trees of the required type and size were no longer easily available, the plank trough came into use as a substitute. It was simpler to make, but lasted only about half as long as the log trough. The planks were white-pine, hemlock, or white oak. The size of the plank trough was about ten feet long, fourteen inches wide, and ten inches deep. Practically all wooden troughs have disappeared and the galvanized iron trough is the only one anymore in common use.

The watering troughs readily collected sediment, ooze, and leaves and the sides of the trough became moss-covered, and therefore had to be cleaned at regular intervals. As an aid in cleaning, the trough had a hole in the bottom at the one end closed with a stopper, and was slightly inclined toward the drain end. The trough was elevated about three feet from the ground and frequently had a strip of iron, usually a worn-out buggy tire, fas-

tened along the edge of the trough, or horseshoe nails were driven into the edge to prevent the horse from chewing the trough. The troughs were placed along the side of the road but parallel to it so as to be readily accessible to both horses of the team simultaneously.

These wayside watering troughs involved considerable labor and expense in their construction, in placing them in proper position for use, and in their maintenance. Those landowners with watering troughs usually were granted annually a reduction in their taxes for their labor and expense in constructing and maintaining them.

The Hitching Post

The hitching post has long since become a relic of by-gone days. When horses were still in common use for travel and transportation, the hitching post was considered indispensable in connection with every well-regulated place of business, private residence, and rural homestead. In the business portion of the town, a row of wooden hitching posts could be found on both sides of the street nearest to the pavement. A strong iron rod or wooden rail joined these posts thus making a continuous row of hitching places. In front of a private residence, there was found only one hitching post for the accommodation of the friends and guests of that particular family. Nobody else ventured to use it. It was regarded strictly as private property. There was either a hole through the post near the top or an iron ring attached for the adjustment of the hitching strap. The top of the post was invariably very much disfigured as the result of the persistent chewing of the horses. The private hitching posts were usually made of iron with a horse-head figure at the top with a ring attached for hitching purposes. Around the hitching post a deep depression was invariably in evidence as the result of the incessant pawing of a restless horse.

When Bells Were in Common Use

The use of different kinds of bells was much more common years ago than it is today. The bells in use were the ordinary hand-bell, the square-cornered cow-bell that was forged in some blacksmith shop, the regularly bell-shaped factory type, and the sleigh bells attached to the sleigh itself or to the horse when drawing the vehicle. There was an evident need for bells at the time and scarcely any home was without them. Bells were a means of communication, instruments of great merriment, and contrivances to produce music on festive occasions.

Country hucksters, the collectors of old rags, the

fishmonger, and peddlers of all types always used the hand-bell to announce their arrival at a home or in the community. The scissors and knives sharpener had a bell suspended above the grindstone placed on his two-wheeled cart as he pushed it from one residence to another, offering his services for a few pennies to those in need of them. More interesting was the man with the grind-organ and the monkey, going his rounds with the monkey ringing the bell and collecting the pennies in his little red cap. Farm laborers were called to their daily meals by the ringing of a bell which was mounted on the roof of the summer kitchen or on a high post nearby. Cow bells were used, among other things, to serenade a newly-married couple upon their return home from their wedding trip. The entrance of the stage coach into the town or the arrival of the packet boat on the canal was heralded by the ringing of bells.

The one-roomed rural school teacher at first had a small hand-bell to call the children from the playground to their studies and recitations. Some years later a small belfry graced the roofs of many of these rural school-houses in which was suspended a factory bell with a rope which extended to the schoolroom. In the villages and towns the ringing of the school bell called the children from their homes to the school on the week-days. On Sundays the church bells were rung to call the people to worship. It is a matter of great satisfaction that this practice has been continued in many communities to this day. It was customary to have the tolling of the church bell upon the occasion of the death of a member of the congregation or perchance of some distinguished person of the state or nation. Sometimes the fire alarm in a community was sounded by a tapper on one of the church bells. On the other hand, church bells were sometimes rung as expressions of great rejoicing in the community brought about by an important event such as the signing of the armistice that terminated hostilities of World War I, November 11, 1918. Church bells were rung on New Year's Eve, Independence Day, and on other special occasions. The old-fashioned sleigh ride was always enlivened by the jingling of the sleigh bells. Many years ago bells held a prominent place in the life of the home and community, but in these latter days they have almost completely become the objects of the relic hunters and antique dealers.

The Old-Time Barber Shop

The barber shop and barbering methods, like almost everything else, have changed radically during the past sixty years. The very appearance of the shop has chang-

ed. Years ago the walls were decorated with pictures that corresponded quite well with the questionable character of much of the conversation of the men customers. Between these pictures were scattered numerous brands of calendars of insurance companies, hardware stores, clothing stores, and banks. The barber shop was essentially a men's club for the community. The ever-present cuspidor stood not far away from the barber chair for the special accommodation of the customer. The tonsorial parlor was really a parlor with its array of shaving mugs, hot water copper kettles over coal oil lamps, and the tattered and torn copies of the pink Police Gazette. The Police Gazette proved to be about the only reading material found in the shop, and judging from its pictures and printed matter, customers would have been better off even if this had been omitted. The regular patrons had their own individual shaving mugs. Each mug was elaborately decorated with the owner's name inscribed in gold letters. Sometimes the mug even contained a picture of its owner and a figure characteristic of the vocation he followed. For example, the railroader's mug had the figure of a locomotive, and an employee of the Pennsylvania Canal, the figure of a canal boat. Since these mugs often were the gifts of wives or sweethearts, they frequently contained sentimental mottoes such as "Forget Me Not" or "Lest You Forget". All these mugs were artistically arranged on successive shelves along the wall in the front of the room. On other shelves stood an assortment of popular shaving lotions such as Wildroot, Lilac Toilet Water, Bay Rum, and other kinds.

In the long ago, the tonsorial artist tried his skills on the long flowing beards, the long mustaches, the sideburns, and the Van Dykes, as well as with common shaving and haircutting. Today, almost wholly, the former-named forms of barbering have been discontinued for the men, and even shaving has become much limited because of the almost universal use of safety razors. This was the day when the patrons of the barber shop were exclusively men and boys. Now women and girls frequent the barber shop almost as much or more than men and boys. A barber's trade today applies to all persons irrespective of age and sex. The conversation of the barber shop has definitely changed for the better. Men and women now talk about the events of the day and read the metropolitan dailies, the SATURDAY EVENING POST, or some other magazine of like quality. The present-day barber shop is also much more sanitary. In the long ago there were no legal requirements for sanitation that had to be satisfied. There was no such a thing as sterilizing instru-

ments, or using a clean towel for each customer. The same towel might be used successively on a half-dozen customers, and nobody thought anything about it. A finger bowl with some alum was found on the shelf directly in front of each barber chair. After a man's face had been lathered and shaved once, the barber dipped his fingers in the bowl of alum and moistened the face of the customer. This alum water was used on the face for the "second going over" in preference to soap suds because it readily adhered to the skin and made the skin more firm and less slippery. The shaving rates varied from five to ten cents, and for an old-fashioned haircut, the rates varied from ten to fifteen cents. In these early days persons desiring to become barbers served an apprenticeship for a period of time, depending on the aptness and industry of the apprentice. Just as soon as the necessary proficiency was attained, they became partners in the business or opened shops for themselves.

The Old-Time Drugstore

The old-time drugstore was operated usually by one of the physicians of the community. It contained on its shelves about everything known to *MATERIA MEDICA*. It had a much larger supply of what are known as patent medicines than does the drugstore of the present day. It carried a large supply of all kinds of medicines for domestic animals, and the veterinarian proved a good customer of the store. The store also had all kinds of herbs, medicinal teas, and even sold tapioca, sago, and different spices such as cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. A large portion of its tinctures, syrups, and pills were made by the druggist. Usually they were not sugar-coated as are the pills of the present day. There were many favorite medicines such as balsam germalde, which was used as a stimulant, for its healing qualities, and for chronic catarrhal infections. A drugstore carried on an extensive trade by mail with people living in other places but who had formerly been local residents. Later prescriptions from local physicians were filled, so much so, that they became known by the name of prescription drugstores.

Covered Bridges

As the wilderness paths and trails were replaced in course of time by roads, so fords and ferries had to give way to bridges. The transition from the one to the other was made inevitable by the large increase in migrations westward to conquer and to open new lands. The first ferry in Snyder County was established by Adam Fisher in 1791 across the Susquehanna River at the southern end of the Isle of Que. This ferry linked the valleys of the

Middle Creek and Penn's Creek with the lands east of the Susquehanna River. There seems to be no way of knowing when the first roads and bridges were built in the county. The first bridges were very crude affairs consisting of two logs laid parallel to each other across the stream and floored with poles instead of planks. These crude bridges in course of time developed into the covered bridge. Just why these bridges were covered probably nobody knows. They may have been covered for the same reason that houses and barns were roofed. Lumber was cheap and plentiful, so why not cover the bridges also? They may have been covered so that travelers might have



The Old Covered Bridge Across Penn's Creek at New Berlin

a place of refuge during thunder storms. They may have been covered to protect and to preserve the different materials used in their construction. The real reason may have been anyone or all of these combined or for some entirely different reason. People can only speculate about the matter.

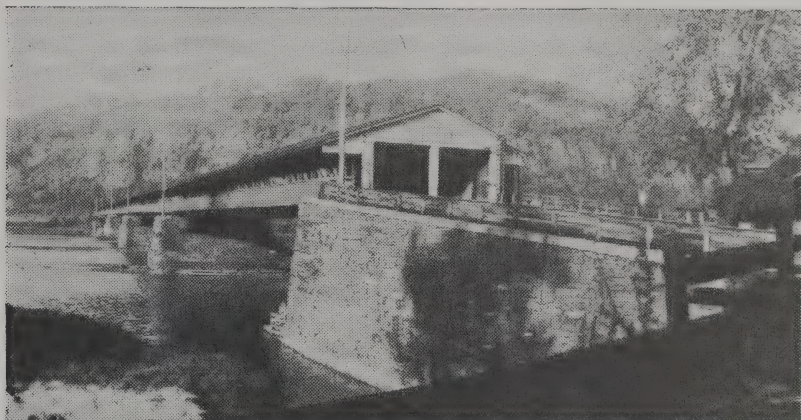
The first bridges in Snyder County officially date back to the closing years of the eighteenth century. The first petition for a bridge in what is now known as Snyder County was held over for advertisement by the court in May, 1785, and called for a bridge across Penn's Creek along what is today known as the Susquehanna Trail. In August, 1796, the Grand Jury appropriated seventy-five pounds in English money for a bridge across Middle Creek

on the "Great Road" between Sunbury and Carlisle. There were many covered bridges during the closing years of the eighteenth century, and especially during the whole of the nineteenth century. A few examples will show the cost and location of these bridges at the time. In 1820, the building of two bridges across Middle Creek at Kantz was authorized. In 1868 the County Commissioners received bids for a new bridge across the North Arm of Middle Creek at Globe Mills. The contract was awarded to Benjamin Rupp of Selinsgrove for \$1,560. The bridge across Penn's Creek at New Berlin was built in 1876, and was replaced by the present concrete one in 1933. The contract for the construction of the bridge across Penn's Creek at Maurer's Mill in Jackson Township was awarded in 1890 to John F. Stetler of Middleburg for \$3,340. The specifications called for a bridge 240 feet long with a clearway of sixteen feet and with abutments and a pier thirteen feet high from low water mark.

The wood used by the early bridgebuilders was the wood readily available in that particular community. In many cases it was black walnut, oak, and often even less substantial wood. Lumber was plentiful, its cost was low, and labor was cheap so that neither item was a very important factor. The size of the bridge was determined by the purpose it was supposed to serve. If the traffic was heavy, the size of the bridge was made accordingly larger. The construction of them was relatively complicated and required both a technical and practical knowledge of construction work and of mechanics. Upon a close examination of the structure of one of these covered bridges, one is led to the conclusion that these early bridgebuilders must have been real artisans. The piers and abutments varied with the period in which they were constructed as well as with their location. Most of the covered bridges of the county were of the single-span type, and therefore required no central pier. The oldest foundations were dry walls. The lack of mortar seems to have caused no special trouble. Loose planks were used for the flooring. The bridges were usually heavily covered with tobacco and patent medicine advertisements and with the photographs of candidates for political office.

There were different kinds of covered bridges. They were plain in their construction, beautiful in proportion, and provided a pleasing feature for any landscape. The most common variety of the covered bridges was the single-tunnel type with side boards to the eaves and with the ordinary quarter-pitch roof. On the roads where the traffic was heavy the double-barreled or two-tunnel bridge type prevailed. A good example of this type was the bridge

across the West Branch of the Susquehanna River at Blue Hill. It was undoubtedly the most noted bridge in this locality. It was built between 1828 and 1830 during the days of canal-building as a part of a great state highway system. In 1824, an act was passed by the legislature making certain provisions for promoting the internal improvements of the state. The Northumberland Bridge was built under the provisions of this act as a turn-pike bridge for vehicular traffic and a towing path for Pennsylvania Canal. The bridge was 1,300 feet long, had six spans, was constructed entirely of wood, and had a roof. It had five stone piers and two abutments. The bridge originally had two roadways for vehicles, but with the abandonment of the canal and with the passing years, only one was maintained with places for passing on the abandoned side. The tow-path was on the southern side



The Old Covered Bridge Across the West
Branch at Blue Hill

of the bridge from which the mules towed the canal boats across the river from the canal at the foot of Blue Hill to the canal which extended from the east abutment of the bridge past Northumberland and northward. There was a railing on the outside of the bridge for the sliding rope in the pulling of the canal boat. This old railing was worn smooth and was highly polished by the sliding ropes that were pulled across it for many years. It was a toll bridge with the toll-house located on the Northumberland end of the bridge.

This large two-tunnel bridge was the subject of the ravages of many floods of the Susquehanna valley. Two spans were carried away in the flood of 1865. In 1899 the four central spans were washed away. These spans struck

the railroad bridge a short distance below, and three of the spans were destroyed. In the meantime there were no transportation facilities across the river since the bridge couldn't be used, the river was too high for small boats, and the ferry was out of commission. The bridge has an interesting history along other lines. One of the highlights in its history took place during the Civil War. When word had been received in this section in 1863 that General Lee with his Confederate Army was invading the North, and was marching through the Cumberland Valley, the people of Northumberland took every possible measure to impede the progress of Lee's army if it should be successful in reaching the Susquehanna River Valley. They even went to the extent of stuffing the bridge full of hay and straw with the intention of setting it on fire at the proper moment.

In 1899 Northumberland County attempted to take over the bridge about the time the Pennsylvania Canal was abandoned in this section. It was then discovered that the boundary lines of Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties met in the middle of the bridge at the west end, and that the three counties equally had to accept the responsibility for the upkeep of the bridge. In this way, the Northumberland Bridge became known as the Tri-County Bridge. A little later it was discovered that the northern boundary line of Snyder County was located south of the first ravine below the bridge in place of being directly at the bridge. This completely changed the status of the upkeep of the bridge. About noon, Sunday, June 3, 1923, the bridge was completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin with a property loss of approximately \$200,000. The bridge had been insured for \$10,000 by the three counties. It was one of the last of the wooden bridges across a large stream in the state. The very same year the Pennsylvania State Legislature appropriated \$350,000, according to the provisions of a bill introduced by the Honorable Charles Steele, the Senator of the Twenty-seventh District, to replace the old bridge between Blue Hill and Northumberland. The bill originally provided for the appropriation of \$240,000, but the governor reduced that amount to \$200,000. At the following session of the legislature, the appropriation was sufficiently increased so that today a large concrete bridge of eleven spans, built by George Rockwell of Sunbury in 1925, and officially opened to the public in 1926, provides an excellent highway across the West Branch.

Nearly all the covered bridges are now gone, and in their place are found concrete structures. Covered bridges are relics of the horse-and-buggy days. The few that

still survive are doomed within the next few years. Some of the surviving ones in Snyder County are: two bridges across Mahantango Creek above Meiserville, one across Mahantango Creek near the Juniata County boundary line east of Oriental, one across Middle Creek at Renninger's Mill in Penn Township, one at a place northwest of Beaver Springs, and one about one and one-half miles northeast of Beavertown. Snyder County abounded with covered bridges about fifty years ago along the Susquehanna River and its three main tributaries, but today the few remaining ones stand out as a melancholy memorial of the ravages of time and the ruthlessness of material progress.

Where were all these covered bridges located throughout Snyder County a half-century and more ago? At the northeast corner of the county was the Northumberland Bridge across the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. A little farther south was a covered bridge of the camel-back type across the Pennsylvania Canal for the accommodation of the traffic from the highway to the Upper Ferry between Blue Hill and Sunbury. The bridge was primarily a canal bridge to get the southbound mules from the roadway to the tow-path as well as to get the northbound teams from the tow-path to the road. A cottage at Sandy Beach erected on the abutment of this bridge, designates its exact location. The first bridge above Selinsgrove was the old-covered type and was erected across Penn's Creek, extending from the extreme northern end of Selinsgrove to the southern end of the Monroe Township road to Shamokin Dam. The road that extended across the meadow land from the bridge to Selinsgrove was of the corduroy type made of planks, tree-trunks, or logs laid transversely side by side. The bridge was generally referred to as the "Red Bridge above Selinsgrove". This bridge was constantly threatened by floods and ice gorges until finally it was swept away and another bridge was constructed about 1842 at a different location. This bridge was swept away by an ice gorge in 1904 and was replaced by a state bridge completed at a cost of \$64,975. This state bridge was replaced by another state bridge completed in 1944 and located a short distance west of the old bridge.

In the borough of Selinsgrove were two covered bridges across Penn's Creek, one at Pine Street and the other at Bough Street. There were covered bridges across Penn's Creek, three miles north at Monroe Mills (Schoch's Mills), Maurer's Mill, Herrold's Mill (Kratzerville), New Berlin, and at Sampsell's Mill near the town of Penns Creek. There were covered bridges at one time or another across Middle Creek at the foot of Bake Oven Hill below

Selinsgrove, at Hoover's (now the Electric Dam), and at Hosterman's. There were twin bridges at Kantz, Kreamer, and Globe Mills. There was a covered bridge between Swineford and Middleburg, one east of Paxtonville, one north of Beaver Springs, and one northwest of Beaver Springs. Starting at the mouth of Mahantango Creek, there were covered bridges at one time or another at many different places.

Early Inns and Taverns

It is said that Pennsylvania had more inns and taverns during the period of settlement than any other equal area in the country. The reason for this is not hard to find. Pennsylvania was geographically in the line of march of emigration from the Atlantic seaboard to the Middle West. In fact some of the Virginians preferred traveling westward by way of Pennsylvania on the old Forbes Road of 1758 to traveling across the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia to Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. Before roads were built, travel was confined to the inland waterways by means of canoes, rafts, and packet-boats, and to paths through the wilderness, traveled afoot and on horseback. Later when roads were built, the farm-wagon, the Conestoga Wagon, and the stage-coach were employed. The marketing of farm products had to be accomplished either by the use of the water-ways or by the wagon-roads. In order to reduce bulk for easier transportation and greater profits, many farmers converted their grains into whiskey, and thus materially simplified the transportation problem. All these ways of travel and transportation were exceedingly slow, were impractical at night, and necessitated numerous stops along the way to house, rest, and feed the traveler and his teams. To meet this need, many inns and taverns sprang into existence for the accommodation of the traveling public.

These early inns and taverns were located along the main routes of travel and trade as they existed in those days. In fact there was no need for them elsewhere. These taverns constituted the center of many different types of activities. Not only did they have a bar-room, kitchen, dining-room, and sleeping quarters for guests, but usually there were attached a general store, the post-office, and a room for holding the elections. Some of these buildings that served as taverns a hundred and more years ago are still standing and appear now to be located in out-of-the-way places, but this is because of the relocation of roads or the shifting of trading centers.

It is really amazing how numerous these inns and taverns really were at one time. The region between Selins-

grove and Northumberland simply abounded in inns and taverns. All of them were built in the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century. They made a special business of catering to the stagecoach passengers between Harrisburg and Northumberland, the river raftsmen, and the canal-boat travelers and employees. The spring of the year afforded the most lively business for these taverns when the rafts were brought down the river from the northern lumbering regions, and later in the season when these same raftsmen returned northward to their homes again to make ready the rafts for the following spring. Ox-roasts were plentiful and the flow of liquor continued for days during these days of merry-making at taverns. These raftsmen evidently were a wild and reckless group of men. They had no scruples about gambling, they indulged in fist-fights, they drank to excess, and occasionally one of them was killed in a drunken bar-room brawl. These men were good patrons of these hotels. They would work in the forests in the northern part of the state felling trees and building log-rafts, and then in the spring they would float them down the Susquehanna River.

A brief statement about some of these taverns may be of interest. Keen's Tavern (now Hotel Logan) was erected by George Keen, the founder of Keensville (now Shamokin Dam). Gaugler's Imperial Tavern was located near the river. Hartman's Tavern was located on the banks of the river about one-half mile south of the old dam across the Susquehanna River. Schuyler's Tavern was situated at the base of Blue Hill. Armstrong's Tavern, popularly known as the Ferry House, was located at the Upper Ferry from Blue Hill to Sunbury. Daniel Hummel's "The Rising Sun" at Hummels Wharf was so-called because the sun arose directly in front of the tavern between a gap in the mountains east of the Susquehanna River. The Filbert House was on what is now the Susquehanna Trail and the street leading to the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. Wolfe's Tavern was on the bank of the river about two miles north of Gabriel's Mill which was undoubtedly located a short distance above the original mouth of Penn's Creek. The Jackson House was located on the street leading from the Susquehanna Trail to Rolling Green Park. Then there were Benjamin Hummel's tavern, Captain Jacob Hummel's Tavern, and George Shaffer's Tavern.

Selinsgrove had many taverns in the days of the canal. The Farmers' Hotel, on the east side of South Market Street, and formerly known as the James K. Davis Sr., Hotel, deserves to be mentioned first because it is the oldest hotel in point of continuous service in the borough.

The hotel was opened in 1784 by Major Anthony Selin, the founder of Selinsgrove. Anthony Selin's daughter, Agnes, was married to James K. Davis. In September, 1844, James Buchanan, later President of the United States (1857-1861), stopped at this hotel while visiting local friends on his way back to his home in Lancaster from a political meeting at Milton. Later Buchanan was a guest at the hotel when he was a candidate for the presidency during the campaign of 1856. The Keystone Hotel became the present Governor Snyder Hotel. The Chesney Hotel was located on the southwest corner of Market and Bough Streets. "The Black Horse" tavern was located on the corner of East Pine and Front Streets. It was known by that name because the sign was decorated with a picture of a prancing black steed. This name for a tavern was very common at the time. A tavern by that name was located along the road between Selinsgrove and Kratzerville, and there was another one in New Berlin. Young's "The Black Horse Tavern", later known as the "Rock Fish Tavern" because the sign had a picture of a large rock fish, was located on the present site of the Fisher Garage and Filling Station. On South Front Street still stands a house that served as a tavern and trading post with the Indians, according to local tradition, known today as the Fanny Jacob's House. Jacob Woodling had a tavern along the river front. The long red building at South Third and East Pine Streets, Isle of Que, served as a tavern. Probably the oldest tavern was that of Adam Fisher, which was established in 1791 in connection with his ferry at the southern end of the Isle of Que. The Union House or the Scharf's Hotel was located on the southwest corner of Market and Chestnut Streets. In this building was held January 18, 1864, the first meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Selinsgrove, and on January 25, 1864, a banquet was served to the Selinsgrove soldiers of Company G, 131st regiment, P. V. I. who had just been mustered out of service at Camp Curtin. The brick house on the south-east corner of Market and Walnut Streets served as a hotel in the thirties.

One of the oldest taverns on the Great Carlisle Road, now the Susquehanna Trail, is still standing at Dundore, in Union Township. It was called the "Drag Hotel", and was built in 1814. It provided a stopping place for the passengers on the canal boats, the raftsmen on the river, and the travelers on the stagecoach line between Harrisburg and Northumberland. The tavern was strategically located for the accommodation of all these travelers since directly in front of the tavern was the road, the canal, and beyond the canal the Susquehanna River. The rather

strange name for the tavern came from its sign consisting of a spike-tooth harrow suspended from a beam. On Water Street in Port Trevorton was located, beside a canal lock, the National Hotel. Here the travelers by boat and coach dined on river salmon, shad, and eels, for which the place was well noted. At Chapman stands a stone house, built in 1777 by George Herrold, that is one of the most beautiful examples of early "American architecture found in the entire river valley. In this house, George Herrold conducted a tavern at a time when this section was still a frontier. The most noted tavern in this area was built in 1813 by Colonel J. C. Herrold and was known as the "Independence Hotel". The building was of brick construction in front of which was hung a swinging sign bearing the coat-of-arms of Pennsylvania and the motto—"Virtue, Liberty and Independence", with the date 1813. The small village afterwards took its name from the unique tavern sign. The elections were held in the bar-room. In the ball-room on the third floor, Tom Thumb gave a performance. Colonel J. C. Herrold was postmaster as well as tavern-keeper. The mail was distributed in the bar-room. In later years, the tavern was converted into a silk-mill and was finally destroyed by fire.

Farther down the trail between Independence and McKees Half Falls stood another tavern called the "Stage House" or "Pump House". It was so called because it was a stopping place on the stagecoach route and because the pump was very close to the road. When the Susquehanna Trail was built, the engineers found it necessary to remove the pump and fill in the well to make the road-bed the proper width. At McKees Half Falls, Thomas McKee, the Indian trader, lived as early as 1744 and conducted an inn for the accommodation of travelers up and down the river. His wife was a squaw and consequently, many Indians frequented his place. Shikellamy and Conrad Weiser were among the many distinguished people who stopped at his place. At the time of Shikellamy's death, Conrad Weiser came from Tulpehocken to console the chieftain's sons who happened to be staying with McKee at the time. The present McKees Hotel was built in 1845 by Colonel Philip Hilbish. During the horse and buggy days it was a popular summer resort. People came in carriages to spend days and even weeks enjoying the life of the canal, the good fishing in the river, and the beautiful scenery of the river falls. During the time when "Jumbo" Kerstetter was its manager, the hotel was the favorite resort for sleighing and strawride parties.

"The Bridle Path Hotel" was located near the back road from Freeburg over the White Top Hill to Globe Mills.

It was constructed of native stone about the year 1768 by Jacob Moyer, the progenitor of the Moyer or Meyer family of that section of the county. The building is still standing, and with the exception of the windows, it is in its original state. At the western end of the borough of Freeburg, at the point of the road formed by the main and lower streets, stands a frame house that served as a tavern at one time.

The large brick house in Salem was originally known as Boyer's Tavern. There teamsters and dealers in cattle from the west end of the county frequently spent the night enroute to Selinsgrove to the markets in the days of the canal. The late William K. Miller, Esq., (1864-1937) reported:

Elders recall the time when immense herds of cattle and sheep were driven eastward on foot on the way to the Selinsgrove market. My father reported that when he was a boy such a caravan of several hundred head came along, headed by the master on horseback. He dismounted at the old Boyer Tavern, went in, called for drinks, helped himself, and left without paying, saying to the bar-tender that his buddy at the other end of the column would also stop for "schnopps" and pay the entire bill. When the end of the herd arrived, it was driven by a shepherd dog. This so infuriated the bar-tender that he mounted a horse and rode down the road after the man. He caught up with him at Sephares Gemberling's (now Ira Gemberling's), and after a fist fight, in which the bar-tender came out on top, the bill was settled.

The famous Half-Way House or the Valley House at Kreamer was erected as a private residence by Jacob Schoch in 1822. It was sold in 1836 and has served as a hotel up to the present time. It received its name from its location half-way between Selinsgrove and Middleburg. The building is of wood and stone construction. In fact it appears like three distinct buildings adjoining one another. On the west chimney in the attic there is a drawing in the plaster of a spread eagle with the word "Liberty" over the eagle's head. Below the drawing is the inscription: "Never give up the ship", followed by the artist's name Peter Wareham, plasterer. When Snyder County was formed out of Union County in 1855, special sessions of the court were held in the bar-room. The cases involved that immediate neighborhood. At one of the sessions, the building was so crowded that the floor collapsed. During the days of battalions, this tavern was the scene of much hilarity when the militia gathered there after the drills for refreshments.

The "Jackson House" at Kratzerville was owned and operated by John S. Beaver from 1852 to the time of his

death in 1883. In addition to keeping an inn, he also had a full line of general merchandise and served as the village postmaster. Because of conscientious scruples, he abandoned the sale of liquor some years prior to his death. The building was removed by Irvin Nerhood in 1906 to make place for a brick store building and dwelling house. The property is now owned and occupied by Alvin Herman and Son.

The "Eagle Hotel" at Swineford was built in 1800 by a man by the name of Kerstetter and was the scene of great activity during the Kintzler Murder Trials. The building that housed the "Black Horse Tavern" in Middleburg is still standing at the fork of the road in East Market Street. This was the first hotel in Middleburg, dating back to the year 1787. During the period 1852-1861, Henry Smith was the postmaster, and he kept the mail in a drawer beneath the heavy walnut bar. The Smith Hotel or the "Waffle House" was located on the southeast corner of Market and Main Streets. Across the street from the courthouse was the celebrated Washington House with its famous mirrored ceiling and genial proprietor, Carbon Seebold. This hotel was the favorite stopping place for schoolteachers in attendance at the Annual Teachers' Institute and of people in attendance at the sessions of the courts.

Old Homes

Many of the early houses in the county were built from rock which was native to the community. For this reason these houses are frequently referred to as stone houses. Good examples of these early stone houses are the Fisher house at Bake Oven Hill and the two stone houses near Kreamer. Most of the stone houses are relatively small, very thick-walled, and evidently so well built that they still are used as dwellings even though they were built nearly two hundred years ago. On account of the substantial nature of their construction they should be considered as good illustrations of the principle of the survival of the fittest in the field of architecture. Next to the stone houses for durability, came the log houses. Many of the original log houses are still standing throughout the county although a number of them would never be suspected as log buildings because of their changed exterior. For example, part of the first log house erected in Selinsgrove is still standing on the corner of East Pine Street and Strawberry Alley. It is still known to Selinsgrove people as the Albert B. Keck House. A brief account of a number of old homes throughout the country will be given because they have become landmarks, and as such the people of the county should have some knowledge of them.

Old Homes Located Along the Susquehanna River

THE HUMMEL HOMES IN SHAMOKIN DAM. There are three old houses in Shamokin Dam that deserve some consideration as old landmarks. All three of them were built by Captain Jacob Hummel about 1820. The upper house is the one formerly known as "The Rising Sun Tavern", and is now owned and occupied by Truman J.

Purdy, Esq., the middle and lower houses are owned and occupied respectively by Mrs. Edward Rogers and Harry A. Hummel. All three houses in many respects are similar. Each one has a large central hallway with double parlors on each side, a fireplace in each room, and the woodwork massive and very ornamental.

THE JACOB S. COXEY HOUSE ON NORTH MARKET STREET IN SELINSGROVE. In this house "General" Jacob S. Coxey was born in 1854. Coxey is best remembered by the American people as a nationally-known labor leader who led an army of the unemployed to Washington during the depression year of 1894. The building is a log house and is located on the west side of the street, on the north lot adjoining the Fisher Garage and Filling Station. When the house passed into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O. Long in 1912, it was enlarged remodeled, and stuccoed, so that it doesn't bear any semblance any more to a log building.

THE ISLE OF QUE MILLS HOUSE ON EAST MILL STREET. The older portion of the former residence of William M. Schnure at the eastern end of Mill Street is of log construction and undoubtedly dates back to the Revolutionary War period. "Black John" Snyder, the older brother of the governor, lived for some time in this house. Here Simon Snyder and Anthony Selin had a mill and store in partnership. Howell's Map of Pennsylvania in 1792 refers to the place as "Snyder's". Later the house became known as the Isle of Que Mills House or the home of the Schnure's, the proprietors of the mill. Near the house was located the Isle of Que Mills, originally owned by Simon Snyder and Anthony Selin.

THE EPISCOPAL RECTORY ON NORTH MARKET STREET. The present Episcopal Rectory on North Market Street was constructed by the Snyder family during the period of the Revolutionary War and the period immediately following it. The house is of unusual construction, each of the two stories consisting of floors of different levels. Between this house and the mansion are traces of what at one time was a secret entrance. This portion is now a part of the rectory hall. There are two stairways from the first to the second floors. During the Anti-Masonic days when Governor Snyder was the owner of the building as well as of the mansion, the second floor served as a meeting place for the Masons of Lafayette Lodge 194. It is said that the feelings against Masonry were so pronounced at the time that the lodge had a person with pistol and sword seated in a commanding position at both the stairways to safe-guard the meetings against all intruders. The building also served as the servants' quarters for the governor's household and as a store and post office when Mary Kittera Snyder served as the postmistress of Selinsgrove.

THE SUSQUEHANNA FEMALE COLLEGE BUILDING on North Market Street, popularly known as the Noetling Building, and Selinsgrove Hall on the campus of Susquehanna University were both built in 1859, and both are crowned with cupolas. It is difficult to decide what the reason may have been for cupolas on buildings in inland towns. To say the least, they served as ornamental additions to the buildings. The Susquehanna Female College Building appears today very much as it was when it was used for school purposes. In recent years parts of the building have been remodeled and converted into apartments. The brick building stands on an elevation and has a large front entrance, five large windows across the front, four chimneys on the back of the building, and one at each end of the building.

In the portion of the building still in its original state are found wide floor boards, attractively carved woodwork, and three paneled

doors, each with thumb latches on the one side and brass doorknobs on the other. There are two large rooms on the third floor, directly under the cupola. These rooms served as a storage place for the trunks of the students. On the second floor were nine student dormitory rooms; on the first floor are seven student dormitory rooms and two large classrooms. Each of these rooms had a connection with a chimney since in the days of the school each room had its own stove. The students had to care for these stoves and carry their own coal and ashes. They also had to carry the water for toilet purposes from the pump to their dormitory rooms. The north portion of the building was used as a residence by the principal and some of the faculty members. This portion has a large front hall and a winding stairway flanked on both sides with double parlors, with fan-doors dividing the rooms. All the rooms have open fireplaces.

THE DR. BENJAMIN F. WAGENSELLER HOUSE ON MARKET STREET. The yellow house on the west side of South Market Street between Walnut and Pine is southern in architecture, and was the former residence of Dr. Benjamin F. Wagenseller, a distinguished physician and surgeon of Selinsgrove. Following the common practice of that day, the house was built close to the sidewalk and without any front lawn. It was built in 1843. It is interesting to note that Dr. Wagenseller's house, the Trinity Lutheran Church, and the SELINS-GROVE TIMES printing office were erected in the same year, all have pillared entrances, and number among the few houses of their kind in the entire county.

Small windows, outlined with pillars, flank both sides of the doorway. The porch floor consists of one large flat river stone on which the Corinthian pillars rise to support the balcony. The balcony not only covers the stoop but also extends nearly across the front of the house in both directions from the central portico. The two wing sections of the balcony are held in place by iron supports which have proved inadequate with the years, resulting in the sagging of the balcony at both ends. A wrought iron banister of lacy design surrounds the balcony. From this balcony were viewed the civil, political, and military parades.

THE GEORGE SCHNURE HOME ON SOUTH MARKET STREET. This house on the southeast corner of Market and Walnut Streets, now owned by Agnes Selin Schoch, the president and publisher of the "Selinsgrove Times-Tribune", is probably the oldest brick house in Selinsgrove, having been constructed in 1811. All the rooms are large. There are seven fireplaces in the house, no two of which are built exactly alike, and all the mantles over these fireplaces are different from one another in some respects. All the woodwork is hand-carved. The food for the family was originally prepared in the large fireplace in the basement, and the hanging crane has remained intact all these years. Dr. Percival Hottenstein lived for many years in this house, and had for his office the building that serves today as the office of the "Selinsgrove Times-Tribune". In the fire of 1874, George Schnure's home on the northwest corner of Market and Pine Streets was completely destroyed. He then purchased this house from Dr. Hottenstein and moved into it the same year.

THE SERGEANT THOMAS PRICE HOUSE ON WATER STREET. The history of this house goes back to the years prior to the American Revolution. The house is located on South Water Street, and at one time was owned and occupied by the Wenrich family, but today it is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Keiser and their daughter, Pauline Keiser. The portion of the present building comprising the kitchen and dining room constitutes the

original log house in which Sergeant Thomas Price, the Revolutionary War hero, lived and spent his declining years. Probably very little of the original portion is left except the four walls, and these evidently have undergone much change, and are now covered by the weatherboarding.

THE DR. JACOB WAGENSELLER HOME ON THE ISLE OF QUE. This old brick house is located on the northeast corner of Third and East Pine Streets on the Isle of Que, and is occupied today by Elias Walborn, the optician. It is a large house, L-shaped, with large rooms on each side of a central hallway, back of which is the domestic part of the house. The house has a charming entrance with portico and pillars. It was built by Dr. Jacob Wagenseller who served in the State Senate from 1845 to his death in 1847. The Senatorial District at that time was composed of Juniata, Mifflin, and Union Counties. The date of its construction is unknown, but it must have been in the early years of the Pennsylvania Canal since it was the custom in those days for men in political life to build a home in keeping with their position. Dr. Wagenseller also owned and operated a general store and granary business along the canal in the building now occupied by Sheetz's store. In partnership with his brother, William F. Wagenseller, they built a row of three brick houses facing Third Street. In the north dwelling of these houses was born Dr. B. Meade Wagenseller, bacteriologist and chemist.

It is an interesting fact that the line which divided at one time Charlestown and Selinsgrove from Weiserburg extended from the northeast corner of the Wagenseller gardens southwest through the site of the present Masonic Temple on Market Street. Weiserburg lay to the south of this line while Charlestown and Selinsgrove lay to the north. After the death of Dr. Wagenseller, the residence was owned and occupied by Lewis R. Hummel, burgess and postmaster of Selinsgrove. The large brick building at Third and East Bough Streets on the Isle of Que was built by Mr. Hummel. This house is very similar to the Wagenseller houses at the north end of Third Street. All these old houses which were situated near or practically on the canal bank have large double chimneys, arched doorways, thick walls, and were so substantially built that despite age and repeated floods, they stand today without sag or crack.

The OLD FRY HOME ON FRONT STREET. The old Fry House on South Front Street, between Pine and Walnut, was built by John Henry Fry in 1858. It is a frame building with its four corners outlined by square pillars similar to many New York State homes of the same period. It is said the builder toiled an entire winter to construct the stairway with its cherry wood banister extending from the first floor to the third floor. The house has never been changed from its original construction and is remarkably well preserved. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Nellie H. Bergstresser.

THE FANNIE JACOB'S HOME ON SOUTH FRONT STREET. Tradition has it that there was a trader's log cabin originally on the site of what has become known as the Fannie Jacob's Home. This may in all probability be correct. It is known that French-Canadian traders came down the head-waters of the Susquehanna from Canada to barter with the Indians who lived on the Isle of Que. This trader's cabin in due time was replaced by the present log and frame house with its side covered with shingles, and the windows protected by shutters. The front entrance leads into a room that served as a combination kitchen and dining room. There is an enclosed stairway, but it has never been used so far as can be learned. There is a large fireplace, surmounted with a mantle, that extends almost entirely across the west side of the building.

THE CHRISTIAN FISHER HOMESTEAD ON THE ISLE OF QUE. This old homestead is located at the lower end of the Isle of Que. The kitchen of the present brick dwelling is the original one and dates back to 1791. A short distance north of this home is located the gray stone Fisher home that was built in 1824, and is unoccupied today. The stone masonry of this house is one of the finest found anywhere. The house contains open fireplaces, hand-carved woodwork, a circular stairway, cherry wood railings, wide floor boards, and fan-shaped windows over the front door.

THE COLONEL HENRY C. EYER HOUSE. A noted landmark a few generations ago was the home of Colonel Henry C. Eyer on the southwest corner of Market and Walnut Streets. In 1935 the residence was removed to make way for the new post office building. The Eyer house was attractive in appearance and very capacious as were the dwelling houses generally years ago. This house had twenty-two rooms. It was constructed of pressed brick and was trimmed with white marble. The materials for its construction were brought from Philadelphia by canal boats. The front entrance had a large white marble stoop. On the lot in the rear of the house was a large red barn in which were kept cows and carriage horses. Other domestic buildings were the wash-house with its open fireplace, a wood shed, and an ice house. The Eyers were generous to a fault and entertained lavishly. They lived in pomp and splendor. Dinner parties were common in the Eyer homestead. Such distinguished political leaders as Simon Cameron, Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, and James Buchanan, were entertained in the Eyer home. The Eyers represented a type of aristocracy, a culture of the finest and the best in music and art. It was not an uncommon thing for them to journey to Baltimore, Philadelphia, or to Boston to attend the best operas of that day.

THE RESIDENCE OF JOHN APP. The John App residence was located on the northeast corner of Market and Walnut Streets. It was a capacious, three-story brick building, with large chimney and large attic windows, and was built in 1816. In fact, it was unusually large as a place of residence. It had an abundance of hand-carved woodwork, and many open fireplaces. John App is best remembered as one of the chief benefactors that made possible Missionary Institute in 1858. Since his day the building has housed at various times the Snyder County TRIBUNE, the Selinsgrove TIMES, the Snyder County Bank during its brief existence (1869-1874), the Weis Pure Food Store, the offices of the Selinsgrove Water Company, a plumber's workshop and office, a barber shop, a bake-shop, a stationery and bookstore, the local postoffice, and served as a place of residence. Shortly after World War I, the old mansion was purchased by Charles G. Hendricks and Dr. E. R. Decker and was turned into an apartment house. The building continued to be used as a store building and place of residence until it was destroyed by fire in the early morning hours of February 15, 1938, with the loss of two lives and about a score of people being made homeless. The lot is now occupied by a service station.

The Herrold Stone Houses Along the Susquehanna Trail

The three stone houses along the Susquehanna Trail, like the three Hummel houses in Shamokin Dam, were built by a father for his sons. The oldest of the houses, dating back to 1820, is located in Union Township, near the canal bed, and served as a residence of the father, George Herrold. Below Port Trevorton, and near the Lower Herrold Schoolhouse and the old Herrold Graveyard on the west side of the trail is the stone house of William G. Herrold, the foster home of Dr. E. W. Toole's boyhood and of Mish T. Heintzelman who became the Colonel of the 208th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volun-

teer Infantry. A short distance below it is the second stone house. The third stone house is east of the trail between Chapman and Independence. The lower stone house is located at the turn of the road south of Port Trevorton. Back of the house is the Old Herrold Burying Ground. The four brothers John, George, Frederick, and Simon came to this section in 1760.



The William G. Herrold Stone Dwelling House on the
Susquehanna Trail Below Port Trevorton

Old Homes Located Elsewhere in the County

THE TWO-DOOR RED BRICK FARM HOUSES. The large two-door red brick farm house and the large red bank barn may be considered representative of the better type of farm buildings in use in the country several generations ago. The one side of the house was for daily family use while the other side was reserved for special occasions such as the entertainment of particular guests, the family weddings and funerals, and the neighborhood festivities and parties. It would have been considered wasteful and extravagant, to say the least, to have the entire house in common use all the time, even though really needed, by the members of the family. To be "stuck up" was considered a cardinal sin by our forefathers, but to be "nice and common" was regarded a virtue.

In that part of the house where the family actually lived from day to day, the floors were carpeted with well-worn rag carpet and home-made rugs. The kitchen stove and sink were set on large pieces of oil-cloth. The furniture was usually of the nondescript type, but was comfortable. A couch stood against the wall and sagged in the middle from constant use by the family pets and family members. On the walls were hung a number of commercial calenders with pictures of hunters and dogs, a happy child, a landscape with an old grist mill, or a road through the woods. The hats and coats were hung on a frame called the hat-rack. The family table usually was cluttered

with school books, the Lancaster Almanac, probably a magazine or two, and always the country weekly newspaper. The window shades were never drawn and the window sills were always full of potted plants. The living room smelled of blooming geraniums, petunias, and Christmas begonias, tobacco smoke, perspiration, and the odor of well-prepared food from the nearby kitchen. The large wood-box behind the kitchen stove, piled high with stove-wood to keep the family warm, the corner cupboard, grandfather's clock, the large kitchen stove, and the tallow candles and coal-oil lamps made up the principal articles of furniture for the daily use of the family. Here the farm family lived a happy and contented life from day to day wholly oblivious of the existence of the other side of the house.

On the other side of the house, the window shades were always drawn and the window sills were clear of all potted plants. The floor covering consisted of Brussels carpet or new rag carpet. The air of the room smelled musty and stuffy since there was little or no ventilation. The furniture was stiffly arranged around the sides of the room and consisted of a type that was anything but comfortable. In the middle of the room was a small table containing the old Family Bible with its records of births, marriages, and deaths. The family album containing the tin types and photographs of many members of the family over successive generations occupied a conspicuous place on the table. On the walls were hanging the enlarged photographs of the deceased family members, or perchance such photographs were supported on an easel placed in the corner of the room. These rooms were thoroughly cleaned at least twice in the year even when there was no particular reason except that it was house-cleaning time.

This type of farm house came into common use about the middle of the nineteenth century. It marks the period in our local history when the family's comfort began to be taken into consideration. The large bank barns were built long before the two-door red brick farm houses, because the Pennsylvania Germans thought first of their barns before they thought of their houses and of themselves. A large red bank barn alone showed that the farmer was on the road to prosperity, but the two-door red brick farm house together with a large red bank barn indicated that the farmer had already attained prosperity.

THE MILLER AND PAWLING HOMESTEADS. One of the oldest homesteads in Snyder County is the Miller farm in the Middle Creek Valley on the highway from Salem to Kreamer. One of the two dwelling houses is a little house of log construction, covered with clapboard, and in all probability dating back to 1788. This house was the residence of the late William K. Miller, Esq., (1864-1937) former District Attorney of Snyder County. A short distance from the Miller homestead in Penn Township is the Pawling farm. Joseph Pawling, an Englishman, owned 300 acres of land in that section which reportedly he farmed largely with slave labor. His son, Samuel Pawling, built the present red brick house on the farm in 1820. The building is really divided into two homes by a wide central hallway with beautiful doorways at both ends. These two homes were occupied by the father and son. The house, like all houses of that period, has artistically carved woodwork and hand-wrought iron locks and hinges on all the doors. There are wall decorations the like of which may not be found in any other house in that section. The decorations are of the hand-stenciling type in which the artist must have used home-made dyes of bright indigo blue and rich reds. Time has changed the white walls into a gray, but the blue and red are just about as bright today as when put there a hundred years ago. One room is stenciled with little blue stars while the other rooms have simple decorations of red and blue.

THE OLD STONE HOUSE IN FREEBURG. The stone house is located on the square of the town. It was built by John Glass during a period of three years and was completed in 1817. The house has a beautiful colonial door-way which opens into a wide hall. This hall and one room have paneled wainscoting. The kitchen, living room, and bedrooms have fireplaces with nicely-carved mantel pieces over each one of them. The latches on the doors are made of brass and appear very quaint. This is the house that was owned and occupied by Rev. Isaac Gerhart when he served the Reformed Congregation of Freeburg (1814-1818). In this house was born his son, Dr. Emmanuel V. Gerhart, one of the most distinguished theologians that the German Reformed Church ever produced.

THE OLD BOWER HOUSE IN SWINEFORD. In Swineford on the street leading to Mt. Pleasant Mills is located the house commonly known as the Old Bower Homestead. This house replaced an old brick building that was originally the place of residence of Congressman George Kremer who moved there from Lewisburg in 1827. The house is of brick construction. It has a central hall-way with double living rooms on each side, each one containing the usual open fireplace. The house, like all buildings of that day, is made with hand-made nails, hand-hewn girders, and very heavy timber generally. The barn, located near the residence, is put together with wooden pegs, and stands as substantially today as it did when built over a hundred years ago. At the present time, the house is owned and occupied by A. J. Sharadin.

CHAPTER 36

Floods, Fires, and Accidents

Nothing is or can be accidental with God.

Longfellow

The Floods of the Susquehanna River and Tributaries

Snyder County lies directly south of the confluence of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River. The North Branch has its source in Lake Otsego, near Cooperstown, New York, and drains a goodly portion of the eastern part of that State as well as the northeastern portion of Pennsylvania. The West Branch rises in Glen Campell in the western part of Pennsylvania, arches northward to North Bend, and then flows southward past Williamsport to Northumberland, where it is joined by the North Branch. The West Branch with its many tributaries, drains the northern section of Pennsylvania. The North and West Branches bring to their confluence the flood waters of a vast territory.

When the Pennsylvania Canal was built, the mouth of Penn's Creek was changed from the northern part of Selinsgrove to the southern point of the Isle of Que and the mainland. As long as the canal was maintained in good condition, this diverting of the stream was not a flood menace. Since the great flood of 1936, when much of the breast works of the old canal was washed out, the water from the river backwashes and overflows the lowlands along the old channel of the creek and much of the lowlands to the north and west of the river. In this way in course of time, the Isle of Que, which is now a peninsula, will again become an island.

River Floods Years Ago

The first authentic record of high water in the Selinsgrove area was in 1771, the year of the death of George Gabriel, the first settler in this vicinity. That flood prevented the holding of religious services at the home of Benjamin Weiser on the Isle of Que. Weiser's cabin was located midway between the stone and brick houses on the southern part of the island, a section that now lies on an elevation and is seldom inundated. In March, 1784, a big flood swept the Susquehanna River valley, causing much destitution and loss of property. One of the most famous floods of this section took place in 1810 and has been called the "Pumpkin Flood", because so many pumpkins were washed from their vines in the fields along the lowland and were carried down the stream. Penn's Creek struck its high water mark and washed the bridge over the creek at Longstown (New Berlin). In 1833 Penn's Creek again overflowed its banks, breaking through the Pennsylvania Canal at the "mud dam" at the head of the Isle of Que. This same situation occurred in the great flood of 1936, causing the river to flow into the creek, and thereby adding to its flood waters.

In 1846 the Susquehanna Valley was inundated by freshets that caused a flood exceeding the flood of 1810. The banks of the canal broke at many places, and much damage was done to property. River bridges were washed away at Milton, Northumberland, Duncans Island, and Harrisburg. The bridge over Penn's Creek between Selinsgrove and the Isle of Que was swept away. In the following year, another flood almost as bad as the one of the preceding year took place. High water damaged so much of the canal that navigation was interfered with. Three breaks in the canal between Selinsgrove and Liverpool were the result of the flood of 1850, and again in 1853, floods swept the valley. The local bridge over Penn's Creek and the aqueduct were swept away. In 1857, when the dam of the Isle of Que Mills was

damaged by the flood waters, the canal banks were weakened and had to be repaired. Transportation on the canal was suspended in 1862 for a week on account of a break in the bank a short distance below Selinsgrove, due to high water washing away the bank. Landslides delayed train service in the valley.

River Floods in More Recent Years

One of the greatest floods of the Susquehanna Valley took place in 1865. The bridge over the Susquehanna River at Lewisburg was washed away and landed on an island in the river below Selinsgrove. The Pine Street bridge at Selinsgrove was swept downstream also. It was reported that all the bridges from Lock Haven to Northumberland were swept away. The destruction was more marked on the West Branch than on the North Branch. The canal along the West Branch was so damaged that the company questioned the advisability of repairing it. Hundreds of tons of coal were washed away from the coalyards. Almost the whole of the Maine Saw Mill was swept away. This flood exceeded by six feet all previous high water records. The river flooded the banks, and a cow of the Black Horse Tavern (the residence of George P. Fisher at the northeast corner of Front and Pine Streets) was brought into the kitchen, and from there it was removed to the roof of the back porch. The chickens were housed in the bedrooms along with the family. The horses were taken to high ground in the upper section of the island. A family living back of the tavern had to move to the second story, and kept their pigs in the attic. The flood of 1865 undoubtedly carried a larger volume of water and destroyed more property than any flood prior to that time.

The following year the usual spring flood did considerable damage, washing away crops and interrupting railroad service. In March, 1869, floods again swept the valley. In the midst of the overflowing banks of the creeks and rivers, occurred a very violent thunderstorm. Logs from the northern portions of the State came floating down the West Branch, having broken through the log booms at Williamsport. After the waters had receded, thousands of logs were found scattered over the upper end of the Isle of Que. At this point the Maine Saw Mill with a number of houses for employees was located at the head of the island. The saw mill, the dwelling houses, and the lumber were fastened by chains to big trees in order to prevent their being washed away.

In 1874, the year of the "Big Fire" in Selinsgrove, there was high water. Ice gorges and water nearly reached the height of the flood of 1865. Considerable damage was done to the railroad bridge across the river. This bridge sagged from six to eight inches in some places. The ice gorged across the "Red Bridge" above Selinsgrove and covered the meadows and fields with ice and water. In the flood of 1880 many logs floated down the river and a goodly number were caught by the local "Algerines" on the Isle of Que. In February, 1881, the "Red Bridge" above Selinsgrove and the bridge at Schoch's Mill, two miles north of Selinsgrove, on Penn's Creek, were washed away. The ice floe damaged the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge over Penn's Creek at Selinsgrove. On February 20, the largest ice floe ever seen on Penn's Creek passed off after depositing huge cakes of ice high on all sides of the banks. The Sunbury dam across the Susquehanna River was damaged badly. In the June flood of that year, the Isle of Que Mills dam was broken, half of the structure being washed away. In the flood of January 4, 1886, the dam at Hoover's Mill in the Middle Creek was washed away. In February of the same year high water washed away the bridges at Schoch's Mill and at Kratzerville.

The year 1889 was marked by several floods in Snyder County.

On March 5 of that year, the water main crossing Penn's Creek from the northern section of Selinsgrove to the Maine Saw Mill was broken in the ice gorge, causing the water to draw from the reservoir, leaving Selinsgrove without sufficient water for fire protection. In June of that year occurred the Johnstown Flood which affected nearly all of Pennsylvania, wiping out many bridges and bursting dams on the Susquehanna River. The Bough Street bridge over Penn's Creek was washed away. The railroad bridge across the river was loaded with freight cars. The bridge moved five feet, but remained standing. It was the only bridge across the Susquehanna River north of Rockville to its headwaters that remained standing. The property loss in all parts of the state was enormous. In November of the same year high water again threatened the railroad bridge while under reconstruction from the damage of the June flood. Charles Johnson, a Swede, fell from the bridge while working on it and was killed. Samuel Hartman, another workman on the bridge, was painfully injured at the same time.

In 1900, the months of February and March were again marked by storm and flood. Penn's Creek flooded the upper part of Selinsgrove and washed out one hundred feet of the dam at the Isle of Que Mills. The following spring the flood reached a twelve-foot height, and the Michael Kratzer family, residing at Water and Bough Streets, was removed from their home in a boat when the Penn's Creek again went on a rampage. Then in 1902, not to be outdone by the two previous years, a flood was staged in March. Heavy rains caused both the creeks and the river to rise rapidly to an alarming height. The Bough Street bridge was again washed away, and the railroad bridge was loaded with cars. All passenger and freight trains on the Sunbury-Lewistown Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad were taken via Harrisburg. The trestle over the Isle of Que between the bridges was washed away with seven cars on it. Four days later the first mail reached Selinsgrove, and the passengers were transferred across the island on a temporary foot bridge. The year 1904 marked another flood period in this section when the eastern span of the "Red Bridge" was carried away with the ice floe. The ice jam at that time extended from the creek meadows over Nigger Island. The entire dam over the Susquehanna River at Sunbury was washed away. The year 1913 was an especially unlucky year for Snyder County. In addition to having an epidemic of smallpox in Selinsgrove, Penn's Creek struck a high water mark causing considerable damage.

The greatest flood ever experienced in this area reached a height of thirty-one feet in the Susquehanna River Thursday, March 19, 1936, and continued unabated until late that night. Middle Creek throughout its length and Penn's Creek north of Selinsgrove receded somewhat that afternoon, but Penn's Creek at Selinsgrove did not fall until the river began to recede. That was due to water in the river flowing into the creek a mile north of the town. Damage exceeded several hundred thousand dollars to the Snyder County riverside area. The Selinsgrove property damage was the worst of all sections of Snyder County, though Shamokin Dam suffered much too, and practically all the forty cottages at Shady Nook were swept away by the torrent. Water rose to the height of the first floor windows over the Isle of Que Thursday forenoon, and attained almost that height the length of Water Street and north on Market Street from the Pennsylvania Railroad crossing into Monroe Township and the Hummel's Wharf section. The swollen streams reached to the App section, north of Brook's Bank and beyond the Monroe Mills section on the west and extended a mile and a half to the hills on the east bank of the Susquehanna River, submerging the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad at the Selinsgrove Junction and weakening that utility's right-of-way in many places.

The seriousness of a second flood within a week became apparent Tuesday afternoon, and by that evening the river had submerged much of the Isle of Que. Penn's Creek rose to a height again to endanger the machinery in the pumping station of the Selinsgrove Water Supply Company. Early in that afternoon the water began to run over the Penn's Creek bridge at Pine Street. Over \$50,000 worth of lumber was washed away from the yard of the Bogar Lumber Company. Many of the logs battered their way through the Pine Street bridge. The water rose to the height of the girders of the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge. The J. G. Ott Box Factory and the Whitmer Bottling Works were flooded. Meanwhile the water continued to rise and the Bough Street Bridge went out. The Selinsgrove Water Supply Company was incapacitated and pumping was out of the question. Selinsgrove was placed on a water-shortage schedule. This situation was somewhat relieved when pipes were connected with the artesian well at the Selinsgrove State Colony and with the reservoir at the top of the Union Cemetery hill.

Many Isle of Que residents moved their furniture to the second floor of their homes, and men in boats began to ferry families from that part of the town to the higher land on the west banks of Penn's Creek. The water continued to rise rapidly until twilight and the seriousness of the situation became increasingly apparent. More men in boats called at more homes on the Isle of Que, imploring residents to quit their premises. Meanwhile the creek water had backed into the sewer system and geysers shot from the manholes in the streets and leaked into the cellars on the east side of North Water Street. The Oliver Bower home on South Water Street was swept away. Hundreds of people gathered along Water Street, unmindful of the rain, as the water rose to the east side of Water Street at Pine. The plight of the people on the Isle of Que became more alarming. Heavy ropes were stretched from the east end of the creek bridge to a buttonwood tree at the old canal and thence to Elias Walborn's home, Third and Pine Streets, on the Isle of Que. Brave crews of men in flats and foot-boats made their dangerous way through the darkness to ferry to the bridge those persons brought them by other workers who made their way through the water-covered streets of the Isle of Que with motor boats and row boats. Other boats continued their missions of mercy between the west end of the bridge and Water Street. Hundreds of people were in this way evacuated from their homes to safety.

The local Red Cross went into action immediately. The Methodist Church became a rescue station. Soon many of the cellars on Water Street where the church is located became flooded. The First Lutheran Church was then opened, and the Sunday School room was converted into a dormitory. Townspeople quickly supplied mattresses and blankets for the children and the Selinsgrove State Colony rushed a hundred cots and twice as many blankets to the church. Meanwhile others busied themselves securing food for the breakfasts of those quartered in the church. Other residents of the Isle of Que were quartered in the homes of relatives and friends. The flood refugees remained in their shelters for five days and nights during which time they were fed in the Lutheran Church by a group of women of the church and town. After the flood waters receded, the big job of cleaning up took place in which the Public Works Administration and the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps of Beaver Springs did heroic work. Prior to the time of the 1936 flood, this section was suffering from a sporadic epidemic of scarlet fever and measles. All suspects were housed in an infirmary in the Decker Apartment house. No serious consequences materialized and other people returned to their homes. Free vaccine was administered to people in the town. All contagious diseases were non-existent in the borough for several months. The National Red Cross sent truck loads of disinfectants and clothing,

and in other ways helped materially in the rehabilitation of the homeless. Yearly the high waters, in the spring of the year particularly, have threatened portions of Snyder County such as the French Flats in Middleburg, the low lands along the Middle Creek at Kreamer, and the Isle of Que and areas around Selinsgrove.

The Selinsgrove Fires of 1872 and 1874

During the first decade following the close of the Civil War, an epidemic of fires swept the country. Probably the largest and best known were the Chicago fire of 1871 and the Boston fire of 1872. So vast and destructive were these two fires that the greater portions of the two cities were reduced to ash. Just why so many destructive fires occurred in so short a time may always be a matter of conjecture. Probably most of the buildings at the time had been constructed of wood, and the protection against fires and the means of fighting fires were too inadequate for the times, many people may have believed that it was profitable to have a fire providing the building was insured, and the fires may have been the result of the moral lapse that inevitably follows a long and bloody war. It would not at all be unreasonable to believe that a war veteran who had been with Sherman in his march through Georgia or with Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley burning homes and destroying property, and be acclaimed a hero for doing it, might not have ventured to do the same thing upon his return home for the sake of some unnamed revenge, or because of a morbid tendency to set fires to buildings and then be present to enjoy watching the raging flames. Whether any or all of these reasons may be considered valid explanations, the fact remains that all of these fires didn't simply happen. At least some of them must have been caused to happen.

The bridge across Middle Creek at Kantz went up in flames, a stable at Port Trevorton was destroyed by fire, and a number of fires of a very suspicious origin occurred in Selinsgrove prior to the Great Fires of 1872 and 1874. Mifflintown had a fire in 1871 with a loss between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The seven insurance companies concerned in this fire were also involved in the fires at Selinsgrove. It was reported that all the companies assumed their obligations except the one that went bankrupt. Since most of the companies were mutual, the policyholders were subjected to assessments to as much as four dollars per thousand. A special act of the legislature appeared necessary to make possible such assessments. A second act appropriated \$20,000 for the relief of the Mifflintown fire sufferers. The commission that was charged with the responsibility of distributing the money was sued for failing to administer this amount of money properly. Such local legislation was abolished by the State Constitution of 1873.

The great fire of February 21, 1872, in Selinsgrove started at 10 p. m. and was not checked until 3 a. m. the next morning because of the high wind. It began in John App's stable and followed Pleasant Street until \$100,000 in damage had been done to structures on Pine, Market, Walnut, and Water Streets. The Baptist Church on the east side of Water Street was destroyed, but the First National Bank with its tin roof resisted the danger. The fire became so widespread that it soon appeared to be completely out of control. As one would naturally expect for the times, most of the buildings were wooden structures and a strong wind was blowing. It sent sparks as far as the Isle of Que, kindling fires at from twenty to thirty places in-between. It looked for awhile as though the entire town would be reduced to ash. It was the greatest fire Selinsgrove had experienced up to that time. The damage done by the flames was partly covered by policies in different insurance companies. The TRIBUNE office was destroyed

and new type and new offices had to be secured. The TIMES office was much more fortunate, and that paper did not miss an issue.

The immediate protective measure taken by the borough was a town meeting February 24, called by the chief burgess, L. R. Hummel, to authorize the town council to purchase a first-class steam fire engine. Frank Weirick was made secretary of the meeting and Samuel Alleman the president. The authorization passed unanimously. A committee was appointed to ask the State Legislature for permission to issue \$10,000 in bonds for the purchase of one engine, hose, and apparatus. It was also agreed to offer two hundred dollars for information as to who set App's stable on fire, the reward to be paid by the borough. In due time the borough ordered a fire engine to be delivered in ten days, a move which was obviously popular. A fire engine was no good without firemen to use it, and so a fire company was organized to take charge of the engine. This was the beginning of the Susquehanna Fire Company composed of about 150 members. Meanwhile the town was busily engaged in removing the debris and new buildings were making their appearance. By June the destroyed area was rebuilt and improved.

Hardly had the town of Selinsgrove been restored before a worse conflagration hit it about 6 p. m., October 28, 1874, with a loss estimated at \$100,000. Again the fire started in a stable, and soon thirty-four buildings were in flames at one time. In all, fifty-four structures were destroyed, including the Keystone and National Hotels, the Methodist Church, the Public School building, and the TIMES Printing Office. The fire started at the rear of the north-west corner of Pine and Market Streets and literally destroyed the main part of the town. The burnt area was bounded by West Pine, North High, North Market to the Governor Snyder mansion, east to Water and south to East Pine. Two Sunbury Fire Companies came to the aid of the doomed town. It was reported that much property was stolen during the confusion while the fire was raging. By the time the fire stopped burning, the townspeople saw before them an appalling scene of destruction. Over fifty buildings were destroyed and a property loss of about \$100,000 was sustained. Not too much dismayed, the people bravely began to rebuild and to make a better town out of the ashes. The town government was taking measures to prevent future calamities of the kind. A move was started to secure a hook and ladder company. The borough offered \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the fire fiend who had started the flames. Suggestions were forthcoming that better hose be secured and the cisterns be kept filled with water. The town council appointed an official flue inspector. A new patent fire extinguisher was tried out and found satisfactory, and the recommendation was made that every business man have one in his possession.

Hardly had the town caught its breath when another fire completely destroyed L. R. Hummel and Company's steam saw-mill. The loss was \$25,000 with only \$15,000 covered by insurance. Then came another fire in Mrs. William Gaugler's stable which was destroyed because the fire engine lacked enough hose to reach the water. To make the town even more jittery, it was found that the water which was run into the canal to provide a supply for the fire engine in case of a blaze on the Isle of Que had been let out "by some villains who desired to cut short the supply of water in case of a fire". The stable of Jonas Rauch was found to be coal-oiled. On December 30, 1874, John App's stable was entirely burned with a loss of \$1,100. If the people of Selinsgrove by this time were not panicky of what today would be called fifth-column intimidation, it was only because their Pennsylvania German common sense stood them in good stead. Everyone wanted either an explanation for the fires or else a culprit to lay

the blame on. Some thought tobacco-smoking was largely the cause of all fires, while other attributed them to sheer carelessness, and still others were convinced that firebugs were on the rampage. Finally at the beginning of the new year two men were arrested as suspected incendiaries, but they were freed because of lack of evidence. Meanwhile the new fire engine arrived and the people breathed more easily. For some reason or another the fires grew fewer in number, and the town was slowly rebuilt.

The Selinsgrove Fire of 1938

In the early morning hours of February 15, 1938, the Decker and Styer buildings at the north-east corner of South Market and Walnut Streets were destroyed by fire with heavy losses to the owners of the buildings and their tenants. Fire Companies from Selinsgrove, Sunbury, and Lewisburg failed to stop the flames. The strong walls of the First National Bank building prevented the fire from spreading northward, and the other buildings in the immediate neighborhood were protected by their strong brick walls and tin roofs. The large plate-glass window of Wentzel's Department Store across the way was cracked by the intense heat.

Of the fourteen people who lived in apartments in these buildings, two of them lost their lives and the third one was admitted to the Mary M. Packer Hospital in a critical condition. These three occupants evidently were cut off from escape by the flames. The one, an elderly lady, living in an apartment on the second floor, was burned to death; and the others, a married couple, living on the third floor, jumped from a third-floor window in an effort to save themselves from the flames. The woman died shortly afterwards from injuries sustained from the leap, while the husband ultimately recovered from his injuries. The cause of this calamitous fire was unknown although at the time there was speculation and even suspicion. The fire started with a tremendous explosion in the Decker Building. The shoe-repair shop on the first floor where the blaze was first observed was soon enveloped in the flames. The three-story Decker building was an old landmark of Selinsgrove. It was built in 1816 and served for many years as the residence of John App, a philanthropic-minded individual, prominently identified with the founding of Missionary Institute in 1858. More than a decade prior to the fire, this building had been converted into a business block and living apartments.

Fire Destroys the Bogar Lumber Plant of Selinsgrove

During the afternoon of April 11, 1946, a devastating fire on North Water Street, Selinsgrove, destroyed an entire block of buildings and 750,000 feet of lumber, with a total loss of over \$50,000. The area of the fire extended from Spruce Street north to the railroad tracks and from Water Street east to the banks of Penn's Creek. The large two-story frame building, planing mill, the office building, the storage sheds, the plant machinery, the warehouse, and the dry lumber kiln were totally destroyed by fire. The fire started on the first floor of the mill as a tiny flame in a pile of fine sawdust under an electrically driven planer. The dry sawdust and the shavings soon caused the fire to get completely out of control. Fire companies from Selinsgrove, Hummels Wharf, Shamokin Dam, Sunbury, Northumberland, Middleburg, and Beaver Springs responded promptly but waged a losing battle from the very beginning to get the flames under control. The buildings surrounding the planing mill and lumber yard were seriously threatened with destruction by the flames, and were saved only by the vigorous efforts of the fire companies. The fire undoubtedly was the worst

in Selinsgrove since that of 1938 which destroyed the Decker Apartment building at the north-east corner of Market and Walnut Streets, and that of 1944 which destroyed the Simon B. Rhoads Mill. The planing mill was acquired from the Selinsgrove Lumber Company in 1929 by Victor E. Bogar of Port Trevorton, and was operated in partnership with his brother, Dr. John Bogar, for a number of years. Later Victor E. Bogar assumed full control of the mill and operated it in partnership with his sons.

The Middleburg Fires of 1897 and 1948

Middleburg was never subjected to great fires such as those of 1872 and 1874 in Selinsgrove. A number of lesser fires should be mentioned such as in 1851, 1867, 1875, 1878, and particularly the one of 1897. On a Saturday afternoon, May 22, 1897, fire broke out at the west end of the town. Three barns located in that immediate neighborhood caught fire and were wholly destroyed. Sparks of fire dropped on other buildings and at one time eleven buildings were on fire. At the time it looked as though the entire town would be totally destroyed, leaving nothing but ruins as a remnant of the place. The Selinsgrove Fire Company was called, but could not respond because it was out of repair. Finally through the capable assistance of bucket brigades and force pumps, the fire was brought under control and no outside assistance was needed. The cause of the fire was unknown.

On Monday, January 19, 1948, fire destroyed the large H. E. Walter Building located on the town square directly opposite the courthouse. The fire at the beginning gained great intensity because several hydrants were found frozen in the sub-zero weather and had to be thawed out with blow torches. An attempt was made to pump water from Stump's Run, but the frozen condition of the stream made the water supply inadequate. Fire Companies from Middleburg, Selinsgrove, Beavertown, and Beaver Springs fought the flames for hours in a futile effort to save the buildings. None of the adjoining buildings, however was destroyed. The damage caused by the fire approximated \$50,000.

The building was an old landmark of the county-seat that formerly served as a hostelry, and was widely known as the Washington House. When the building came into possession of H. E. Walter a number of years ago, it was reconstructed into a store room, office quarters, and apartments. At the time of the fire, it was tenanted by the American Stores Company, the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, and by several families. It was a large imposing three-story structure with a brick veneer.

The Richfield Fire of 1925

A disastrous fire threatened the entire town of Richfield, Juniata County, on the bitter cold Thursday night of December 31, 1925, destroying the general store, dwelling, and garage of Paul V. Leitzel, Clarence Garman's restaurant on Main Street, Ammon Lauver's double brick house and large barn, the single and double houses of John Basom, five stables, a blacksmith shop, a hatchery, and smaller buildings, with an estimated loss of \$75,000. It proved to be the worst disaster that ever struck the town. Richfield is a prosperous town located about eleven miles west of Freeburg on the borders of Snyder and Juniata Counties. Of its population of nearly 400 people, twenty-two were left homeless, and eight families were compelled to flee from their homes with such personal belongings and household goods as could be saved. Without adequate fire fighting apparatus the inhabitants proved almost helpless as the fire raged in the central portion of

the town. Bucket brigades were hurriedly formed, but they proved futile in staying the progress of the fire.

The fire originated in a storage shed at the rear of the Clarence Garman property about 8:30 in the evening, and aided by a strong wind, rapidly spread to other buildings. Fire companies were summoned by telephone from Selinsgrove, Sunbury, Mifflintown, Lewistown, Harrisburg, and other communities, and within two hours after the fire started, they were on the scene. Their greatest handicap was an inadequate supply of water both from the town and from Mahantango Creek, north of the town. After battling with the flames for more than three hours, the fire was finally brought under control. So great, however, appeared the fire hazards that the Lewistown fire companies remained on the scene until the following forenoon.

The residents whose properties were destroyed and who were rendered homeless met their deprivations and property losses with great fortitude. The residents who were fortunate enough to escape the ravages of the fire manifested a remarkable spirit of sharing their possessions with those who had lost theirs. Mr. N. S. Graybill, the proprietor of the other general store of Richfield, furnished the firemen, who were drenched to the skin, with dry clothing, consisting of trousers, shirts, underwear, and gloves. Mr. Graybill and G. W. Losch furnished the fire trucks with about five hundred gallons of gasoline. Herbert Miller, the proprietor of the Monroe House, served coffee and sandwiches in abundance to the firemen. Each resident of Richfield and vicinity did what he could to aid the other residents to alleviate the distress that resulted from the common disaster. Subsequently, the citizens of the town made a generous contribution to the various fire companies that so willingly and courageously saved their town from complete destruction.

The Railroad Wreck Along the Blue Hill

One of the worst railroad wrecks in recent years in this community occurred at the Clement Station along Blue Hill opposite Sunbury shortly before midnight, Thursday, January 30, 1936. The crack Reading Express train commonly known as "The Williamsporter" was wrecked at the west end entrance to the railroad bridge across the Susquehanna River. The train was speeding through the night on its fatal trip from Williamsport to New York City. It was late in leaving Williamsport and probably was attempting to make up time, going too fast for the course of the road-bed and the prevailing conditions at that place. Probably a broken rail, or the "rounding of a rail" by the great pressure of the moving train, together with excess speed can be regarded as the cause of the wreck. The locomotive left the track at the entrance to the bridge and plunged about thirty feet down to the public highway and into the bed of the old Pennsylvania Canal dragging the train with it. In its plunge, it ripped off two spans of the bridge. So violent was the crash and the explosion that followed that the houses on Front Street across the river in Sunbury were shaken.

The scene of the wreck was a horrible sight. The locomotive in making the plunge evidently rolled over several times, and battered and crushed, came to a standstill almost at the edge of the river. Behind the locomotive, across the canal bed, lay the baggage and mail cars with the contents littering the ground. The baggage car rested on its base with the wheels missing while the mail car lay on its side in the canal bed. The two passenger coaches stood practically upright immediately back of the baggage and mail cars. The passenger coaches were made of steel, or else the wreck would have resulted in a greater loss of life and more serious injuries to the passengers. The

windows of the passenger cars were battered and broken. The two freight cars, loaded with fresh meat and canned milk, were attached to the last passenger coach, and likewise remained in an upright position. Coal from the tender of the locomotive, car-wheels, the under-carriage of the train, and wreckage of various kinds lay scattered in all directions. The over-head bridge across the Susquehanna Trail had collapsed because of the tremendous pressure and had fallen across the public highway. Some of the wreckage and the creosote-soaked railroad ties caught fire making it necessary to call out the fire companies of the city. In the train plunge, telegraph poles and wires were torn down, further entangling the wreckage. The wreck attracted wide attention and thousands of people rushed to the scene on the following days. The fact was that railroad wrecks over a given number of years had become so few in number and so far between that this wreck received more than the usual attraction in the recent history of railroading.

The rescue work was made increasingly difficult by the bitter cold, a light snow falling at the time, and the darkness of the midnight hour. The rescue workers, with the aid of flashlights, made up of railroad employees and community volunteers, toiled diligently and bravely throughout the night, so that when the early morning hours approached, the injured and the other passengers had all been properly taken care of. The victims were removed from the coaches through the car windows. The accident resulted in the death of three persons and in injuring more or less seriously thirty-three more, among them being a number of Bucknell University students enroute home for a week-end vacation between the semesters. The dead were Dr. Guy Rothfus, a physician from Williamsport; Washington Danshaw, the fireman from Tamaqua; and William Ramp, the engineer also from Tamaqua. Rothfus and Danshaw were dead when recovered from the wreckage and Ramp died at the Mary M. Packer hospital early the next morning. The injured were removed to the city hospital as speedily as possible by ambulances, automobiles, and trucks which were pressed into service. An aged woman from Williamsport was probably the most seriously injured suffering from contusions of the face and head and from injuries about the leg and back. The injuries of the student passengers consisted largely of cuts, bruises, and sprains. The majority of the patients were able to leave the hospital later in the day. Local doctors and nurses of the hospital performed yeoman service in caring for the injured. The hospital service and space were used to full capacity.

Giant derricks were speedily used to remove the battered and twisted cars in an effort to restore the traffic on the Susquehanna Trail as quickly as possible. More than a hundred men were employed at one time by the railroad company to accomplish this purpose. In the official investigations of the wreck, undertaken by Federal and State officers and by inspectors of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, a broken or rounded rail was regarded as at least one of the probable causes of the wreck. It was thought plausible that the tremendous pressure of the fast-moving train as it passed the sharp curve to the bridge might have produced this condition. Just what actually was the cause may never be known. The engineer was an old employee and was well acquainted with the nature of the road. The fact is that the train equipment was so badly demolished that an examination and an investigation of the conditions revealed practically nothing of value as to the exact cause of the accident.

The Airplane Tragedy Near Middleburg

On Sunday afternoon, May 27, 1934, a very distressing tragedy occurred about one and one-half miles east of Middleburg that claimed

the lives of three promising young men of the community. An airplane nose-dived to the ground from an altitude of about one thousand feet on the McClenahan farm, killing the pilot and two passengers instantly. As the airplane crashed to the earth, it suddenly caught fire and burst into a seething flame, burning the three bodies beyond direct recognition. Their identification was made possible later on through the examination of pieces of jewelry such as the wrist-watch and rings worn by the youths. It was undoubtedly the most horrible accident of its kind that had ever occurred in Snyder County. The accident proved all the more distressing since it occurred near the homes of the three victims while the members of their families were watching the movements of the airplane.

The occupants of the airplane were: Allen J. Snyder (aged twenty-eight years), a graduate of Susquehanna University of the class of 1930 and the coach of Athletics of the Middleburg High School at the time of the accident; George R. Erdley (aged seventeen years), the only son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Erdley of Globe Mills, a well-known merchant and a former member of the State Legislature from Snyder County; and Carl E. Walter (aged seventeen years), a son of Mrs. Verna Walter of Middleburg. Both boys were pupils of Snyder at the local high school. Snyder was the pilot of the ill-fated plane, and the three young men had left the Sunbury airport about noon headed for Middleburg. After circling over the town of Middleburg, the airplane headed east and soon went into a tail-spin from which Snyder appeared to have been able to recover it. This was followed closely by a second tail-spin, and despite Snyder's frantic efforts to get the machine under control, it plunged to the earth in an alfalfa field along the public highway between Middleburg and Kreamer. The wreckage immediately burst into flames as the gasoline tank exploded. By the time people arrived at the scene, the heat of the flames had become so intense that nothing could be done in the way of rescue.

The machine was a biplane, a Fairchild model, and was originally owned by Snyder. Later on he sold it to George Spaid and Ralph Wetzel of Selinsgrove with the provision that he could use it whenever he so desired. On the Saturday previous to the accident, Spaid flew the machine and at the time everything seemed to work perfectly. It evidently was in good shape mechanically, since just shortly before it had passed the Federal inspection for a license. Snyder had been flying since the previous summer and was considered a fairly good pilot though not sufficiently experienced to attempt stunts and to carry passengers. Although an investigation of the accident was undertaken, the decision reached was to the effect that the cause of the accident was not known.

The Shade Mountain Airplane Accident

Seven years later in 1941, the county was compelled to experience another shocking airplane accident. The only mitigating circumstance of this second tragedy lay in the fact that its victims were not the immediate kindred of the native population. In this respect the local people were spared the grief and sorrow that inevitably accompanies the violent death of loved ones. The victims of this crash were Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Brewster, socially prominent people of New York City. Mr. Brewster was associated with a New York business firm as an investment broker and was an experienced pilot. The accident occurred near the top of Shade Mountain while the couple were on a pleasure trip to visit friends at Warren, Ohio. The Brewsters had taken off from the Roosevelt Field, Long Island, on Friday afternoon, May 9, 1941. They traveled in a Beachcraft Plane that had

a normal cruising speed of 210 miles per hour, one of the fastest private sport planes on the market. It was valued at \$25,000.

The trip normally would have taken only a few hours, but when the following day came without any word from the Brewsters, concern over their safety began to be manifested and a comprehensive search over the thickly-forested mountainous areas of central Pennsylvania was begun. A three-day search for the missing fliers ended on the following Monday afternoon, May 18, in the finding of the totally demolished plane together with the broken and mangled bodies of its occupants. The wreckage was sighted at 3:45 p. m. by the pilot of a United Air-Line Plane. He reported it to Harrisburg where it was broadcast by radio and then picked up by the police. By 7:15 o'clock State Motor Police from Selinsgrove and Lewistown had already reached the spot. Captain William A. Moore, superintendent of the Harrisburg Airport, circled over the scene of the accident for the purpose of guiding these men to the scene of the crash as speedily as possible.

The plane struck the north side of Shade Mountain about two miles directly opposite the town of Beavertown at 5:28 o'clock on Friday afternoon, May 9, 1941, at a spot about one hundred and seventy yards from the road located on the crest of the mountain. From the edge of the top plateau there is a steep descent for some twenty-five yards to the first bench of the mountain which has an elevation of 2,000 feet and on which the accident occurred. This immediate portion had been burned over and was blackened by one of the spring forest fires that had raged there a few weeks prior to the accident.

The full cause of the accident may always remain a matter of conjecture. On that fatal day a bank of clouds covered the top of the mountain, there were light showers in the forenoon, and there was rain again along the mountain in the afternoon about the time of the accident. Apparently Brewster had flown out of the mist and rain from a north-west to a south-east direction into the side of the mountain either because he had lost his sense of direction or had been driven from his course by the fog and rain. The roaring plane must have struck with a terrific speed, tearing through the tops of the trees, cutting a clean swath through the scrubby pines and brush for a distance of more than fifty yards until it hit the ground with a resounding force, then skidding along, now off the ground, then on again, for about sixty yards more, before it finally came to a complete stop. At least three trees fully seven inches in diameter were broken off by the impact of the plane. The plane must have exploded since it was found completely demolished with its parts scattered in all directions. The luggage was thrown clear off the wreckage. There was some evidence of a fire but not at all on a large scale. It is very evident that the two occupants of the plane must have been killed instantly. The bodies were removed from the mountain sometime after eleven o'clock that night, and were placed in the care of the mortician, Raymond C. Erdley of Middleburg. It is the bitter irony of fate to know that had Brewster been flying just one hundred feet higher, he would have cleared the top of the mountain and probably would have reached his destination in safety.

Airplane Tragedy Near Kratzerville

A very unusual disaster for Snyder County took place Tuesday afternoon, September 21, 1943, in which an aviator was instantly killed in a plunge from an airplane to a ploughed field of the farm of Arthur F. Brouse, about one mile west of Kratzerville, in Jackson Township. The airplane was a high-flying navy plane and was traveling westward from the Floyd Bennet Field, New York, to San Francisco, California. Four persons were eye-witnesses to the tragedy. While these persons

were engaged in picking tomatoes, their attention was attracted by the sound of an object hurtling to the earth at a terrific speed. They saw it strike the ground with a great thud, rebounding from the ploughed earth from eight to ten feet. The vibrations from the terrific impact were felt by the workers about one hundred yards away. They thought at first the falling body resembled a mailbag dropped from a mailplane, but when they arrived at the scene, they discovered the crushed form of a human being. So great was the momentum of the falling body that a depression in the ploughed field, approximately ten inches in depth, was produced. The man was dressed in khaki navy uniform with a aviator's jacket but without cap or hat. In the meantime the airplane crew kept on flying westward without the least attention apparently to the loss of the man aboard.

The deputy county coroner, Dr. Howard F. Straub, upon an examination of the body, declared that death was caused by a broken neck, a crushed chest, broken hip and limbs, and other injuries "sustained in a fall from an airplane". No attempt was made by the coroner to determine the mysterious circumstances surrounding the plunge from the service plane to the earth. Speculations soon furnished varying explanations of just how the tragedy might have happened. One theory proposed that the aviator fell to his death accidentally while making some repairs on the aircraft's antennae; another theory declared it a clear case of suicide by jumping from the plane; another ventured the declaration that it might have been a case of murder by another member of the aircrew by pushing off his victim; another theory asserted that the aviator might have fallen through an open bomb bay, or that he opened the safety hatch and either fell from the plane or was sucked into the slip stream; while still another theory maintained that he might have been working on the plane when it took off and kept hanging suspended in the air until he could no longer support himself. The fact remains that the exact circumstances surrounding the aviator's death may probably never be known. It was reported later that members of the crew of the west-bound airplane stated that he had crawled from the interior of the plane to the outside for the purpose of repairing a radio antenna, and that they did not become aware that he was missing until about twenty minutes later. This lack of knowledge of his fall serves as a plausible explanation for the strange continuance of the plane on its course.

The identification of the victim was established by the metal disks suspended by a chain about the neck. His name was Carroll Rex Byrd, a Coast Guard Aviation Pilot and Radioman, and a resident of Tecate, San Diego County, California. He was about twenty-six years old. He had enlisted in the navy in 1934, serving two years out of San Diego and two years out of Pearl Harbor. He was honorably discharged as a radioman in 1938. In 1939 he joined the Coast Guard, serving two and one-half years as an aviation radioman. He received his flight training at Pensacola where he won his "wings" in April, 1943. The body was taken to the Sutton Funeral Parlor in Selinsgrove, then shipped to the Navy Hospital in Philadelphia, and from there to San Diego, California, where burial took place October 1, 1943. He left a widow, an eight-month old daughter, a mother, and two brothers in the service.

Appendix A. County Officers (1857-1948)

(Taken from the Pa. Manual, formerly Smull's
Legislative Handbook)

1. Associate Judges	6. District Attorney	11. County Auditors
2. Sheriff	7. County Commissioner	12. County Coroner
3. Prothonotary	8. Commissioners' Clerk	13. Sealer of Weights and Measures
4. Register and Recorder	9. Solicitor	14. County Surveyor
5. Treasurer	10. Jury Commissioners	
1857	1859	1861
2. Nathan Farrey	2. Levi Herrold	2. Frederick P. Bause
3. William G. Herrold	3. Jacob P. Bogar	3. Henry S. Boyer
4. Frederick Mertz	4. A. J. Peters	4. John Dorn
5. Frederick Rathfon	5. Isaac D. Boyer	5. R. W. Kern
6. Charles Merrill	6. Charles Hower	6. Samuel Weirick
7. George D. Miller	7. George Swartz	7. Samuel Scholl
Isaac D. Boyer	Samuel Scholl	George Boyer
Samuel Scholl	George Boyer	George Wehr
11. Francis A. Boyer	11. J. Y. Shindell	11. H. S. Boyer
Ner Middleswarth	Frederick C. Moyer	Edwin Bowersox
Henry W. Snyder		
12. Henry Musser	12. Dr. A. J. Sampsell	12. Dr. William B. Christ
14. Henry Motz	14. William Moyer	14. William Moyer
1863	1865	1867
2. Moses Specht	2. Moses Specht	2. Daniel Bolender
3. Henry S. Boyer	3. Jeremiah Crouse	3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. John Dorn	4. Jacob Aurand	4. Samuel B. Schuck
5. Isaac Beaver	5. George F. Miller	5. Jacob Gross
6. Samuel Weirick	6. A. C. Simpson	6. A. C. Simpson
7. Samuel Scholl	7. A. K. Middleswarth	7. Abraham Eyer
George Boyer	P. P. Mertz	P. P. Mertz
Jacob Steffen	George Boyer	Joseph Wenrich
11. J. Y. Shindell		10. G. Alfred Schoch
David Swenk	12. Dr. B. F. Wagenseller	William Markley
12. Dr. B. F. Wagenseller		11. M. L. Hassinger
14. William Moyer	14. William Moyer	Henry Benfer
		Daniel Dieffenbach
		12. Charles Bolender
		14. Daniel Weirick
1869	1871	1873
2. Daniel Bolender	2. John S. Wolf	2. Daniel S. Bolender
3. Jeremiah Crouse	3. Jeremiah Crouse	3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. S. B. Schuck	4. S. B. Schuck	4. S. B. Schuck
5. Jacob Gross	5. John K. Hughes	5. John K. Hughes
6. B. T. Parks	6. B. T. Parks	6. B. T. Parks
7. Abraham Eyer	7. Isaac Longacre	7. John T. Huffnagle
Joseph Wenrich	Philip Kirney	Philip Kirney
J. J. Mattern	A. J. Fisher	A. J. Fisher
10. G. Alfred Schoch	10. Henry Brown	10. Henry Brown
William Markley	G. G. Hornberger	G. G. Hornberger
11. M. L. Hassinger		11. Jefferson Hall
Henry Benfer	12. Dr. Peter Hartman	S. H. Shearer
Daniel Dieffenbach		Daniel Dieffenbach
12. Charles Bolender	14. A. K. Gift	12. Dr. Peter Hartman
14. Daniel Weirick		14. A. K. Gift

1875

2. Daniel S. Bolender
3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. J. M. Vanzandt
5. G. R. Rowe
6. L. N. Myers
7. John T. Huffnagle
- Joel Rowe
- E. R. Swartz
10. Aaron P. Helfrich
- U. P. Weiser
11. Ner B. Middleswarth
- W. A. Glass
- Daniel Dieffenbach
12. Dr. A. M. Smith
14. A. K. Gift

1881

2. Daniel Bolender
3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. James M. Vanzandt
5. Aaron S. Helfrich
6. H. H. Grimm
7. John Romig
- John Reitz
- Henry N. Wetzel
10. A. A. Ulsh
- Henry Hummel
11. Ner B. Middleswarth
- Daniel Dieffenbach
- Samuel S. Maurer
12. Dr. Percival Herman
14. George B. Benfer

1887

1. Jacob A. Smith
- S. A. Wetzel
2. Ner B. Middleswarth
3. W. W. Wittenmyer
4. H. J. Duck
5. Charles A. Bolender
6. Fred E. Bower
7. Isaac Erdley
- John Mohn
- James N. Houser
12. Dr. E. W. Toole
14. Jas. M. Middleswarth

1877

2. Daniel Eisenhart
3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. J. M. Vanzandt
5. Henry Benfer
6. John H. Arnold
7. Moses Krebs
- John Romig
- Joel Rowe
10. S. F. Sheary
- Elias Strouse
11. N. B. Middleswarth
- Daniel Dieffenbach
- William A. Glass
12. Dr. A. M. Smith
14. A. K. Gift

1883

1. S. H. Yoder
- Hiram O'Neil
2. David Reichley
3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. Jas. M. Vanzandt
5. Aaron S. Helfrich
6. Fred E. Bower
7. John M. Moyer
- Henry N. Wetzel
- John Reitz
10. Levi Fisher
- J. O. Goss
11. Adam Smith
- George W. Sierer
- J. G. Hornberger
12. Dr. E. W. Toole
14. James Middleswarth

1889

1. Henry Brown
- Samuel A. Wetzel
2. Reuben Dreese
3. W. W. Wittenmyer
4. H. J. Duck
5. Chas. C. Seebold
6. H. E. Miller
7. Samuel B. Walter
- Daniel Bieber
- Samuel H. Straub
12. Dr. G. B. Meiser
14. Jas. M. Middleswarth

1879

2. Daniel Bolender
3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. J. M. Vanzandt
5. Reuben Dreese
6. John Arnold
7. John Reitz
- John Romig
- Henry N. Wetzel
10. S. B. Sheary
- Elias Strouse
11. N. B. Middleswarth
- R. D. Dieffenbach
- S. S. Maurer
12. Dr. Percival Herman
14. George B. Benfer

1885

1. S. A. Wetzel
- Jacob A. Smith
2. Ner B. Middleswarth
3. Jeremiah Crouse
4. H. J. Duck
5. Chas. A. Bolender
6. Fred E. Bower
7. Isaac Erdley
- James N. Houser
- John Mohn
10. William A. Glass
- Benneville Smith
12. Dr. E. W. Toole
14. Jas. M. Middleswarth

1891

1. Henry Brown
- Samuel A. Wetzel
2. Daniel Bolender
3. W. W. Wittenmyer
4. H. J. Duck
5. Levi Fisher
6. H. E. Miller
7. A. H. Romig
- Jacob M. Duck
- H. J. Heiser
11. Eli Portzline
- J. C. Bowersox
- Albert Marburger
12. Dr. Marand Rothrock
14. Jas. M. Middleswarth

1893	1895	1897
1. Jeremiah Crouse	1. Jeremiah Crouse	1. Jeremiah Crouse
2. Daniel Bolender	Z. T. Gemberling	Z. T. Gemberling
3. J. C. Schoch	2. Alfred Specht	2. P. Scott Ritter
4. George M. Schindel	3. J. C. Schoch	3. J. C. Schoch
5. Geo. C. Wagenseller	4. George M. Schindel	4. George M. Schindel
6. Harvey E. Miller	5. Carbon A. Seebold	5. William H. Reigle
7. Henry Heiser	6. J. M. Baker	6. J. M. Baker
Henry Duck	7. James Erdley	7. William Dreese
A. A. Romig	Thomas Herbster	Isaac Spotts
	Charles Herman	Phares Herman
12. Dr. Marand Rothrock	8. J. M. Schwartz	8. J. W. Swartz
14. Charles L. Wetzel	11. J. C. Bowersox	11. J. C. Bowersox
	C. F. Moyer	C. F. Moyer
	M. G. Reitz	Absalom Schnee
	12. Dr. Marand Rothrock	12. Dr. J. E. Bogar
	14. Charles L. Wetzel	14. Chas. L. Wetzel
1899	1901	1903
1. Alfred Specht	1. P. F. Reigle	1. P. F. Reigle
Z. T. Gemberling	Z. T. Gemberling	Z. T. Gemberling
2. P. Scott Ritter	2. George W. Rowe	2. Chas. E. Sampsell
3. George M. Schindel	3. George M. Schindel	3. George M. Schindel
4. J. H. Willis	4. John H. Willis	4. John H. Willis
5. William H. Reigle	5. Benneville Smith	5. D. Norman App
6. J. M. Baker	6. Miles I. Potter	6. M. I. Potter
7. William Dreese	7. George F. Miller	7. Jonathan Reichenbach
Isaac Spotts	John P. Wetzel	Harrison Moyer
Phares Herman	C. W. Knights	Henry M. Derk
8. J. W. Swartz	8. John N. Brosius	8. John N. Brosius
10. Joseph Hendricks	10. Elmer E. Shambach	9. A. Francis Gilbert
H. G. Hornberger	Robert M. Coleman	10. Elmer E. Shambach
11. J. C. Bowersox	11. D. Norman App	Robert M. Coleman
C. F. Moyer	J. C. Bowersox	11. Chas. M. Arbogast
Absalom Schnee	H. A. Klingler	John M. Boyer
12. Dr. H. N. Nipple	12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman	H. Milton Amig
14. G. A. Batdorf	14. George A. Batdorf	12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
		14. George A. Batdorf
1905	1907	1909
1. P. F. Reigle	1. P. F. Reigle	1. P. F. Reigle
John Fields	John Fields	J. Frank Keller
2. Charles E. Sampsell	2. J. Frank Reitz	2. P. E. Hackenberg
3. George M. Schindel	3. George M. Schindel	3. George M. Schindel
4. John D. Arbogast	4. John D. Arbogast	4. John D. Arbogast
5. D. Norman App	5. Carbon A. Seebold	5. Harry W. Boyer
6. M. I. Potter	6. M. I. Potter	6. Miles I. Potter
7. Jonathan Reichenbach	7. John W. Walter	7. W. H. Grimm
Harrison Moyer	Joseph Leshner	Tobias Mitchell
Henry M. Derk	W. H. Grimm	H. A. Klingler
8. John N. Brosius	8. Calvin Stetler	8. Irvin J. Freed
9. A. Francis Gilbert	9. A. W. Potter	9. A. W. Potter
10. Irvin Graybill	10. John Heimbach	H. H. Grimm
Jacob Jarrett	Adam W. Aucker	10. John Reichenbach
11. Charles M. Arbogast	11. J. H. Hartman	Adam W. Aucker
John M. Boyer	Irvin Boyer	11. James C. Shaffer
H. Milton Amig	J. P. Naugle	John F. Erdley
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman	12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman	William A. Swartz
14. George A. Batdorf	14. John M. Boyer	12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
		14. John M. Boyer

County Officers

977

1911

1. J. F. Keller
Joseph R. Hendricks
2. Palmer E. Hackenberg
3. Alvin B. Keck
4. Edwin Charles
5. Harry W. Boyer
6. William K. Miller
7. W. H. Grimm
Tobias Mitchell
H. A. Klingler
8. Irvin J. Freed
9. A. W. Potter
H. H. Grimm
10. J. N. Houser
Jacob H. Jarrett
11. J. W. Swartz
John F. Erdley
James H. Shaffer
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
14. John M. Boyer

1913

1. J. F. Keller
Joseph R. Hendricks
2. J. Frank Reitz
3. Alvin B. Keck
4. Edwin Charles
5. William A. Knapp
6. William K. Miller
7. Adam Shemorry
B. Frank Rau
Adam W. Aucker
8. Irvin J. Freed
9. Frank S. Wagenseller
10. J. N. Houser
Jacob H. Jarrett
11. B. F. Kuster
John S. Smith
Dallas Wetzel
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
14. John M. Boyer

1915

1. J. F. Keller
Joseph R. Hendricks
2. J. Frank Reitz
3. Alvin B. Keck
4. Edwin Charles
5. William A. Knapp
6. William K. Miller
7. Adam Shemorry
B. Frank Rau
Adam W. Aucker
8. Birchard J. Moyer
9. A. Francis Gilbert
10. Elmer E. Shambach
William A. Erdley
11. B. F. Kuster
John S. Smith
Dallas Wetzel
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
14. John M. Boyer

1917

1. J. Frank Keller
John Fields
2. Charles F. Mattern
3. Alvin B. Keck
4. Edwin Charles
5. Lewis F. Gemberling
6. William K. Miller
7. H. A. Bowersox
O. B. Sanders
Lewis F. Hummel
8. Birchard J. Moyer
9. Miles I. Potter
10. Elmer E. Shambach
William A. Erdley
11. George Shetterly
Frank H. Seaman
John A. Wetzel
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. P. Scott Ritter
14. John M. Boyer

1919

1. J. Frank Keller
John Fields
2. Charles F. Mattern
3. William J. Treaster
4. Edwin Charles
5. Lewis F. Gemberling
6. Harry F. Coryell
7. H. A. Bowersox
O. B. Sanders
Lewis F. Hummel
8. Thomas F. Shambach
9. Miles I. Potter
10. Harvey E. Boyer
J. O. Longacre
11. George Shetterly
Frank H. Seaman
John A. Wetzel
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. P. Scott Ritter
14. John M. Boyer

1921

1. Charles M. Ingram
Newton B. Stetler
2. J. Frank Reitz
3. William J. Treaster
4. Irvin Graybill
5. S. Ammon Fisher
6. William K. Miller
7. O. B. Sanders
Ira P. Roush
William S. Kuhn
8. Charles S. Mattern
9. A. Francis Gilbert
10. John Heimbach
William A. Erdley
11. John S. Smith
Thomas G. Herrold
Frank H. Seaman
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. P. Scott Ritter
14. John M. Boyer

1923

1. Charles M. Ingram
Newton B. Stetler
2. John W. Runkle
3. William J. Treaster
4. Irvin Graybill
5. Harry Ritter
6. William K. Miller
7. J. A. Reichenbach
Charles C. Gross
P. A. Schnee
8. Charles S. Mattern
9. A. Francis Gilbert
10. William A. Erdley
John Heimbach
11. Evan P. Hassinger
Monroe P. Neiswender
Robert C. McClellan
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. P. Scott Ritter

1925

1. B. Frank Harley
Newton B. Stetler
2. John W. Runkle
3. Ira Lose
4. Irvin Graybill
5. Harry Ritter
6. William K. Miller
7. J. A. Reichenbach
Charles C. Gross
P. A. Schnee
8. Charles S. Mattern
9. A. Francis Gilbert
10. J. O. Longacre
William H. Naugle
11. Monroe Neiswender
Robert C. McClellan
Evan P. Hassinger
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. P. Scott Ritter

1927

1. B. F. Harley
Newton B. Stetler
2. John W. Runkle
3. Ira Lose
4. Irvin Graybill
5. Harry E. Ritter
6. William K. Miller
7. J. A. Reichenbach
Charles C. Gross
P. A. Schnee
8. Charles S. Mattern
9. A. Francis Gilbert
10. William H. Naugle
J. O. Longacre
11. Evan P. Hassinger
Frank H. Seaman
Robert C. McClellan
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. Harry Crouse
14. John J. Houtz

1929

1. B. Frank Harley
Charles F. Troxell
2. Cyril F. Runkle
3. Ira Lose
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. Dr. A. R. Potteiger
6. Henry J. Sommer
7. Charles G. Gemberling
Oliver B. Sanders
Guy H. Oldt
8. Charles S. Mattern
9. Jay G. Weiser
10. Harvey Boyer
Robert F. Coleman
11. Evan P. Hassinger
Frank H. Seaman
Robert C. McClellan
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. Harry Crouse
14. John J. Houtz

1931

1. James W. Herman
Charles F. Troxell
2. Cyril F. Runkle
3. Ira Lose
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. William F. Brown
6. Henry J. Sommer
7. Eugene Kemberling
Foster C. Kline
Irvin Walter
8. Charles F. Arbogast
9. A. Francis Gilbert
10. Harvey Boyer
Robert F. Coleman
11. Charles E. Wagner
Evan P. Hassinger
Robert C. McClellan
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. A. J. Fisher

1933

1. James W. Herman
Alvin C. Walker
2. Carl E. Runkle
3. Ira Lose
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. William F. Brown
6. Henry J. Sommer
7. Eugene Kemberling
Foster C. Kline
Irvin Walter
8. Charles F. Arbogast
9. A. Francis Gilbert
10. Harvey Boyer
Robert F. Coleman
11. Charles E. Wagner
Evan P. Hassinger
Guy H. Oldt
12. Dr. A. Jerome Herman
13. A. J. Fisher

1935

1. James W. Herman
Alvin C. Walker
2. John C. Grubb
3. Ira Lose
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. Cluney A. Baker
6. Henry J. Sommer
7. Eugene Kemberling
Foster C. Kline
Newton B. Stetler
8. Charles F. Arbogast
9. Horace W. Vought
10. Harvey F. Boyer
Robert F. Coleman
11. Charles E. Wagner
J. Lloyd Bottiger
A. E. Benfer
12. Dr. Charles W. Straub
13. Charles Moyer

1937

1. James W. Herman
Alvin C. Walker
2. John C. Grubb
3. Ira Lose
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. Cluney A. Baker
6. Henry J. Sommer
7. Eugene Kemberling
Newton B. Stetler
Foster C. Kline
8. Charles F. Arbogast
9. Horace W. Vought
10. Harvey F. Boyer
Robert F. Coleman
11. J. Lloyd Bottiger
Charles E. Wagner
Arthur E. Benfer
12. Dr. Charles W. Straub
13. Charles E. Moyer

1939

1. James W. Herman
Alvin C. Walker
2. E. Rudolph Grimm
3. Evan P. Hassinger
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. Charles W. Reigle
6. Horace W. Vought
7. Eugene Kemberling
Charles F. Troxell
E. T. Lepley
8. Charles F. Arbogast
9. Laird S. Gemberling
10. Harvey F. Boyer
William A. Erdley
11. H. G. Snyder
Charles E. Wagner
Arthur E. Benfer
12. Dr. Charles W. Straub
13. Jay A. Hassinger

1941

1. John C. Grubb
H. G. Snyder
2. E. Rudolph Grimm
3. Evan P. Hassinger
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. Charles W. Reigle
6. Horace W. Vought
7. Eugene Kemberling
Charles F. Troxell
E. T. Lepley
8. Charles F. Arbogast
9. Laird S. Gemberling
10. Henry E. Moyer
William A. Erdley
11. Charles E. Wagner
Arthur E. Benfer
H. G. Snyder
12. Dr. Charles W. Straub
13. Jay A. Hassinger

1943

1. John C. Grubb
H. G. Snyder
2. Palmer E. Dinius
3. Evan P. Hassinger
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. E. Rudolph Grimm
6. Horace W. Vought
7. Eugene Kemberling
George H. Gaugler
Ira W. Garman
8. Charles F. Arbogast
10. Henry E. Moyer
William A. Erdley
11. William F. Howell
Ralph Wetzel
Charles E. Wagner
12. Dr. Howard F. Straub

1945

1. Rev. H. G. Snyder
Lester R. Buffington
2. Palmer E. Dinius
3. Evan P. Hassinger
4. Chester L. Ludwig
5. E. Rudolph Grimm
6. Horace W. Vought
7. Eugene Kemberling
George H. Gaugler
Ira W. Garman
8. Charles F. Arbogast
9. Harry A. Coryell
10. Henry E. Moyer
John Scholl
11. Charles E. Wagner
William F. Howell
Ralph H. Wetzel
12. Reuben D. Shaffer

1948

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. H. G. Snyder | 8. Irvin J. Beachel (appointed) |
| Lester C. Buffington | 9. Laird Gemberling (appointed) |
| 2. Palmer E. Dinius * | 10. Henry Moyer |
| 3. Evan P. Hassinger * | John A. Scholl |
| 4. Chester L. Ludwig | 11. Charles W. Leonard * |
| 5. Ray Leach * | Heber C. Hendricks * |
| 6. Horace W. Vought * | Mrs. Phoebe Wetzel * |
| 7. Harry E. Kuster * | 12. Reuben D. Shaffer * |
| Robert A. Mease * | |
| Spencer H. Bingaman * | |

*Elected in 1947, took office in 1948

NOTE—Charles W. Leonard resigned December 12, 1947, and Charles E. Wagner was appointed his successor.

Ray Leach resigned February 5, 1949, and Ira G. Sanders was appointed his successor.

Appendix B. Members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania

State House of Representatives

The constitution of 1838 provided that within three years after the first meeting of the General Assembly, and every seven years thereafter, there shall be an appointment of the representatives according to the number of taxable inhabitants. The representatives were to be apportioned and distributed equally throughout the state by districts in proportion to the number of taxable inhabitants in the several parts thereof, except that any county containing not less than 3,500 taxables may be allowed a separate representative, but no more than three counties shall be joined together, and no county shall be divided in the formation of a district. The same constitution furthermore declared that "each county shall have at least one representative but no county hereafter erected shall be entitled to a separate representative until a sufficient number of taxable inhabitants shall be contained within it to entitle the county to one representative, agreeably to the ratio which shall then be established". The ratio of representation of taxable inhabitants for membership in the House of Representatives was established by Acts of Apportionment of the General Assembly at intervals of seven years beginning with the year 1843.

According to the constitution of 1838, the members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly were elected annually on the second Tuesday of October, and began their term of office in December of the same year. The regular annual session of the General Assembly began December 1, and ended in April, May, or June of the following year. Under the constitution of 1873, the regular session began on the first Tuesday of January following the election of members every second year, and continued in session until sometime the following spring or summer, depending on conditions. The General Assembly met at other times when convened in special session. Under the constitution of 1838, a term of office consisted of one year; under the constitution of 1873, a term of office consisted of two years.

Our enumeration of memberships in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly from Snyder County began with the organization of the county in 1855 out of portions of Union County. The Apportionment Act of May 15, 1850, states that the House of Representatives shall consist of 100 members or one member per 4,865 taxable inhabitants. Union and Juniata Counties were combined into one district in order to be entitled to one member in the House of Representatives. The Act of Apportionment May 20, 1857, retained the membership of the House at 100 or one representative for every 5,796 taxable inhabitants. The counties of Union, Snyder, and Juniata combined were entitled to two members. The Act of Apportionment of May 5, 1864, retained a House Membership of 100 members,

and Union, Snyder, and Lycoming combined became entitled to three members. The Act of Apportionment of May 11, 1871, again retained the membership at 100, and Union and Snyder together had one representative. The Act of Apportionment of May 19, 1874, raised the membership of the House of Representatives to 201, and Snyder County alone became entitled to at least one representative according to the constitution of 1873, and has continued the one representative of its own to the present time.

Names of the Members of the State House of Representatives

Term of Office	No. of Terms	District	Members
1854-1855	1	Union and Juniata	J. W. Crawford
1855-1856	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	George W. Strouse
1856-1857	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	Thomas Bower
1857-1858	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	Thomas Hayes Daniel Witmer
1858-1859	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	John J. Patterson Wm. F. Wagenseller
1859-1860	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	Thomas Hayes Wm. F. Wagenseller
1860-1861	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	Thomas Hayes John J. Patterson
1861-1862	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	J. Beaver H. K. Ritter
1862-1863	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	George W. Strouse H. K. Ritter
1863-1864	1	Union, Snyder, Juniata	John Balsbach Samuel H. Orwig
1864-1865	1	Union, Snyder, Lycoming	Samuel H. Orwig Samuel Alleman Charles Wilson
1865-1866	1	Union, Snyder, Lycoming	S. C. Wingard D. A. Irwin Isaac Rothrock
1866-1867	1	Union, Snyder, Lycoming	S. C. Wingard Charles D. Roush J. H. Wright
1867-1868	1	Union, Snyder, Lycoming	R. H. Lawshe Charles D. Roush George G. Glass
1868-1869	1	Union, Snyder, Lycoming	W. P. I. Painter Thomas Church W. G. Herrold
1869-1870	1	Union, Snyder, Lycoming	Theodore Hill Thomas Church Andrew H. Dill
1870-1871	1	Union, Snyder, Lycoming	Samuel Wilson John Cummings William Young
1871-1872	1	Union, Snyder	William G. Herrold
(Election even years)			
1872-1874	1	Union, Snyder	Charles S. Wolfe

1874-1876	1 Snyder	G. Alfred Schoch
1876-1880	2 Snyder	Charles Miller
1880-1882	1 Snyder	Leonard N. Myers
1882-1884	1 Snyder	Charles Miller
1884-1886	1 Snyder	G. Alfred Schoch
1886-1890	2 Snyder	Aaron S. Helfrich
1890-1894	2 Snyder	Dr. Edward W. Toole
1894-1898	2 Snyder	Charles W. Herman
1898-1902	2 Snyder	Dr. A. M. Smith
1902-1906	2 Snyder	Francis C. Bowersox
1906-1910	2 Snyder	D. Norman App
1910-1914	2 Snyder	Jacob W. Swartz
1914-1918	2 Snyder	James W. Sampsell
1918-1922	2 Snyder	John I. Woodruff
1922-1926	2 Snyder	Thomas F. Shambach
1926-1930	2 Snyder	George A. Erdley
1930-1936	3 Snyder	Harvey A. Surface
1936-1948	6 Snyder	Ira T. Fiss
1948- —	1 Snyder	Ellis E. Ferster

State Senate

Names of the Members of the State Senate

The constitution of 1838 provided that members of the State Senate shall be elected on the second Tuesday of October for a term of three years, and begin their term of office in December of the same year. It so provided that the number of State Senators shall not be less than one-fourth nor more than one-third of the number of representatives. Under the constitution of 1873 their term of office was made four years. The state was to be divided into State Senatorial Districts. The Act of Apportionment May 15, 1850, declared that there shall be thirty-three senators in the state or one senator for every 14,743 taxable inhabitants. This ratio of representation for each Senator increased with the increase of the population. This designated number of thirty-three State Senators was retained until the adoption of the Constitution of 1873, when the number of senators was increased to fifty. The state was divided into that many districts, as nearly equal in population as possible, and each district was entitled to one senator. By the Apportionment Act of 1850, the counties of Union, Juniata, and Mifflin constituted the 26th State Senatorial District. By the Apportionment Act of 1857, the counties of Snyder, Northumberland, and Columbia constituted the 13th State Senatorial District. By the Apportionment Act of 1864, the counties of Union, Snyder, and Lycoming constituted the 14th State Senatorial District; and by the Apportionment Act of 1871, the counties of Union, Snyder, Northumberland, and Perry comprised the 17th State Senatorial District. According to the Constitution of 1873, the state was to be divided into 50 districts "of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as possible, and each district entitled to elect one senator. This arrangement has been followed up to the present time. The salary of a State Senator is fixed by law.

Term of Office	District	Members
1854-1857	26th—Union, Juniata, Mifflin	James M. Sellers
1858-1861	13th—Snyder, Northumberland, Columbia, Montour	Reuben Keller
1860-1863	13th—Snyder, Northumberland, Columbia, Montour	Franklin Bound
1863-1866	13th—Snyder, Northumberland, Columbia, Montour	David B. Montgomery
1866-1869	14th—Snyder, Union, Lycoming	John Walls
1869-1872	14th—Snyder, Union, Lycoming	John B. Beck
1872-1878	17th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union, Perry	Andrew H. Dill
	27th—Union, Northumberland, Snyder	Andrew H. Dill
1878-1888 (Elected 1878 to succeed Dill resigned)	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Simon P. Wolverton
1888-1892	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	S. D. Bates
1892-1896	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	William H. Hackenberg
1896-1900	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Edwin M. Hummel
1900-1904	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Benjamin K. Focht
1904-1908	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Frederick A. Godcharles
1908-1912	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	William C. McConnell
1912-1914 (died in office)	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	John T. Fisher
1914-1920		William C. McConnell
1920-1928	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Charles Steele
	Elected 1922 to succeed McConnell resigned	
1928-1932	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Benjamin Apple
1932-1936	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Charles E. Miller
1936-1944	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	George A. Dietrick
1944-1946	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	William I. Troutman *
* Resigned January, 1946 to become Judge of Northumberland County Courts		
1946 —	27th—Snyder, Northumberland, Union	Samuel Wolfe

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